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## Inner cabinet stops short of pullback decision

By JAY BUSHINSKY and HILLEL KUTTLER

The inner cabinet moved yesterday toward accepting the American proposal for a 13.1 percent withdrawal in the West Bank, but stopped short of authorizing it unless the Palestinian Authority fulfills its obligations under the peace accords, a government source said yesterday.

Despite the objections of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, the proposal is likely to be presented to the cabinet at its next weekly session on Sunday or before the end of next week, the source said.

In Washington, meanwhile, State Department spokesman James Rubin said the US is engaged in an "intensive end-game negotiation" with Israel and the PA.

The timing of the crucial cabinet vote is evidently being determined by Sharon's impending departure for China, where he is to spend 10 days touring as the head of a large delegation. He is tentatively set to leave July 16.

A source close to Sharon said the minister "will not go along with a pullback that exceeds 9 percent."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's strategy is to go along with the US formula for the IDF's redeployment as a matter of principle, while at the same time leaving it to the Americans to either bring the Palestinians back to the negotiating table or obtain the requisite commitments from them.

Netanyahu's demands of the Palestinians include:

- annulment of the anti-Israeli articles of the Palestinian Covenant by the Palestinian National Council;
- handover of suspected Palestinian assassins for trial in Israel;
- a halt to anti-Israeli incitement in the Palestinian media.

A senior aide to Netanyahu said that, in any case, the pullback would be carried out in at least two installments of 9 and 4 percent. It is not clear yet which would be the first stage.

A senior diplomatic source said heavy pressure is being exerted on Israel by several friendly European states and by moderate Arab regimes that maintain relations with Israel to come up with a clearcut and internationally viable decision about the projected pullback.

As a case in point, he cited Tunisia's refusal to confirm the Foreign Ministry's representative and its reluctance to send a new envoy to Tel Aviv. Stalemate in the peace process was the reason given for these actions.

See PULLBACK, Page 2

## Katash to become first Israeli in NBA

By ELI GRONER

If you thought there were many New York Knicks fans in Israel now, just wait until November.

After a week of speculation that has rocked the local sports scene, Maccabi Tel Aviv point guard Oded Katash officially announced he plans to play for the Knicks in the 1998/99 NBA season.

Although no contract has been signed, due to the current lockout in the NBA, Katash announced that he reached a verbal agreement with the Knicks' brass just hours before the work stoppage went into effect on July 1.

Katash is optimistic that the NBA players' union will reach an agreement with ownership in the coming months, enabling him to become the first Israeli to ever play in the NBA.



### Burning barricade

A crowd gathers around a burning barricade in Lagos yesterday, as violence erupted across Nigeria, triggered by the death of Moshod Abiola, the country's best-known political prisoner. At least 17 people are believed to have been killed. Earlier story, Page 7.

## Shohat: Law prohibits taxing public investments

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The tax reform being formulated by the Treasury stands in clear contrast to the 1984 law guarding public investments in financial assets, MK Avraham Shohat, Labor's chief economic spokesman, said yesterday.

According to several reports, the proposed reform includes imposing taxes on all sources of income - including capital gains, provident funds, savings plans, pension funds and life insurance. The public investments law, however, prevents the government from imposing taxes on financial assets - including training funds, provident funds, deposits, insurance programs and bonds.

According to Shohat, the reform could not include the hundreds of millions of shekels already held in these saving schemes.

The government can, however, decide to tax investments in financial assets which have been made after the reform takes effect.

According to reports, the Treasury also plans to impose tax on other sources of income - such as National Insurance Institute payments, including children's

and old-age supplements.

In addition, the plan calls for the elimination of all benefits, such as those given to new immigrants and residents of development towns and settlements.

Finance Ministry officials began a three-day marathon of meetings yesterday over structuring the tax reform. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman has previously said he aims to introduce real change to the tax system, but so far he hasn't indicated which changes will take place.

Senior officials have stated that the proposals are aimed at removing existing tax exemptions totaling NIS 7 billion to NIS 8b.

The reduction in exemptions will allow the top tax bracket to be reduced from the current 50% to closer to 35%.

Although Neeman has stated many times that the plan will improve the position of the middle class, high-wage earners stand to benefit the most.

Neeman has also said he is committed to completing the tax reform, but the plan may be stymied by coalition concerns or complaints that the reforms could hurt lower income people.

## New CGS Mofaz takes over today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Shaul Mofaz takes over command of the IDF today from Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, becoming the IDF's 16th chief of General Staff.

The day begins in Jerusalem with a ceremony at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, where Mofaz, 50, will be promoted to lieutenant general.

From there Shahak and Mofaz are to proceed to Camp Rabin in Tel Aviv for the formal transfer of command. At noon, Mofaz is to review an honor guard and address the troops. Shahak will then take a final walk among the honor guard and bid farewell to the IDF, which he has served for the past 36 years.

In his farewell message to the IDF, Shahak noted how motivation has increased, immigrants have been absorbed and the status of the combat soldier has strengthened during his three-and-a-half year tenure.

"I leave behind a strong, wise and high quality army of great might," Shahak wrote. "I leave it in the good hands of my friend and comrade Shaul Mofaz, one of the best fighters and commanders of the IDF. I have full faith in his ability to continue marching the IDF forward toward the challenges of the future."

By afternoon, Mofaz will gather his new reshuffled General Staff for its first meeting, where he is expected to lay out his vision of where he expects to take the IDF.

Mofaz was fast-tracked on the road to IDF chief of General Staff since becoming a major general just four and a half years ago.

In this short period, he filled four positions. The day will culminate with a gala reception hosted by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

### ID Card: Shaul Mofaz

Born: Iran, 1948.  
 Immigrated: 1957.  
 Drafted: 1966.  
 Family status: Married with two sons and two daughters.  
 Six Day War: Paratrooper, fought in Rafiah.

War of Attrition: Unit commander along the Suez Canal.  
 Yom Kippur War: Commander of the paratrooper reconnaissance unit.

Entebbe Operation: Commander of the cover unit.  
 Operation Peace for Galilee: Infantry brigade commander in the North.

Key postings: Deputy commander of the General Staff Reconnaissance Unit (Sayeret Matkal); Commander of IDF officers' school; Commander of the Paratrooper Brigade; Commander of the Galilee Division; Commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria; OC Southern Command; Head of IDF Planning Branch; Israeli representative to security negotiations with the Palestinians and deputy chief of General Staff.

Arieh O'Sullivan

## Arabs, Right sink draft bill

By LIAT COLLINS

A coalition of Arab MKs and MKs from the Likud and religious parties yesterday defeated three bills calling to limit the number of exemptions from military service granted to yeshiva students.

The bills were introduced for preliminary reading by Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, Ran Cohen (Meretz), and Ophir Pines (Labor).

Barak and Cohen have resubmitted their bills and promise to keep raising them until they are passed.

"The struggle will continue," Barak told reporters after the vote.

Another vote on the bills will have to wait for nearly nine months, because of the six-month

yeshiva students, whose recruitment will harm the basis of their beliefs that Torah study comes before the obligation of military service, will add to the combat strength of the IDF or, heaven forbid, harm it."

He also turned directly to the Labor Party leader and asked:

"MK Barak, in all integrity and fairness, what did you see when you made this proposal? Was it state security considerations or personal political considerations?"

Mordechai said the Defense Ministry is trying to find ways to integrate larger numbers of yeshiva students in the IDF. He said one of the suggestions under consideration, and being discussed with the heads of haredi parties, is to train the students in a special framework for essential services that can be used by the army.

It's business as usual in the 'army of God', Page 3

compulsory waiting period after a bill has been defeated, which does not include the upcoming three-month summer recess.

Barak's bill fell by a vote of 53 to 45, with four abstentions; Cohen's lost 53 to 41, with seven abstentions; Pines' by 51 to 39, with five abstentions.

Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs abstained from the vote, while The Third Way MKs abstained or absented themselves from the votes. The National Religious Party voted against all the bills, as did the Arab and haredi parties.

The MKs from the Arab parties - and Labor's Rafik Haj Yihye - voted against the bills. They feared that the measure could lead to demands for compulsory civil or military service for the Arab sector.

Barak said that, despite the defeat, the vote was "an important achievement. It is the start of a process under which the IDF alone will decide who to mobilize."

In his speech to the plenum, Barak said "this is a moral fight and it will not end until it's been settled. We are sitting here in the Knesset, and I am telling you that this House seems more and more like a gang of manipulating, cynical politicians who have forgotten that they are emissaries of the public and act as if are their masters. And I am telling you, if you continue to act like cynical manipulators, not interested in the public's opinions, the public will replace you."

He said the bill is aimed at amending a "painful, distorted situation which has grown up of mass exemptions," which he said is "divisive and unfair."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who responded for the government, quoted from a High Court hearing from 1986, when Yitzhak Rabin was defense minister, saying:

"No one can predict whether the drafting of thousands of

Shas leader Aryeh Deri told reporters after the vote. "There is one vital issue which unfortunately Barak ignored, that the IDF today - because of its secular nature - is not built to absorb even those haredim who want to serve in it. Therefore, the solution should be for the Defense Ministry to establish frameworks - and they know which ones - to enable any haredi who wants to serve to do so."

"Barak's bill would not have brought about the draft of a single yeshiva student," Deri added. "It would have caused an even greater rift, because the IDF, instead of defending the borders, would have dealt with putting thousands of yeshiva students in prison."

MK Yossi Beilin, who helped draw up the bill along with MK Nissim Zivli, said, "It's a matter of time until it passes."

He criticized the Arab MKs for voting against and called it "poetic justice" that the government had only managed to defeat the bills with the help of the Arab MKs, since the Likud has often accused Labor of relying on Arab votes.

MK Ran Cohen said the bills showed that "the political map has changed. The majority of the public is traditional or secular."

Third Way leader Avigdor Kahalani said: "We thought of the soldiers and their parents and reached a clear, conscientious conclusion - to support Barak's bill to enable the beginning of an appropriate and worthy solution to a painful and complex problem of Israeli society."

Yisrael Ba'aliya whip Roman Bronfman said his party had not participated in the vote, because "although we support finding a way to draft yeshiva students, we don't think this should be done through coercion and legislation, but through dialogue."

NRP Ministers Yitzhak Levy and Shaul Yahalom said they would suggest ways to enlist haredim at the next cabinet meeting. The NRP supports the idea of both military service and Torah studies, Levy said.

## Bill would allow civil weddings for mixed marriages

By LIAT COLLINS

A bill to allow civil marriage when the partners are of different religions passed a preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday.

The vote on the measure, introduced by MK Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) was 21-11. MKs from the Arab and religious parties were opposed.

The bill was supported by Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, who heads Yisrael Ba'aliya, and coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheerit.

Religious MKs did not turn out in force to try to defeat it, and no gov-

ernment minister responded to the bill.

The bill proposes establishing a framework within family courts for registering marriages where the bride and groom are of different religions. Currently, such couples cannot marry in Israel, where all marriages are registered through religious establishments.

"The bill is an attempt to solve the problem of scores of mixed couples, new immigrants, members of different religions who cannot presently marry here," Bronfman said.

It would also enable these couples to divorce through the family courts. "The state must grant a solution to

those whom no religious court is prepared to marry and to ensure that the marriages and divorces of mixed couples will be under the auspices of the state, and that they will not need to rely on the grace of other countries, such as Cyprus and postal marriages via Paraguay," Bronfman said.

"The bill solves the problems of scores of young immigrant couples in Israel and solves the absurd situation in which the country does not have the legislative means to marry its citizens."

Bronfman added that when the bill is in committee stage before first reading, different categories will be

added - including those who are not eligible to marry, such as kohanim who wish to marry divorcees and mamzerim.

Another planned amendment would stipulate that if the rabbinic courts refuse for three months to deal with a couple registered to marry, the matter would be referred to the family courts.

MK David Tal (Shas) later told reporters he had voted against the bill, "because assimilation is one of the biggest problems facing the Jewish people. Do you want me to be a part in encouraging mixed marriages? Should I bring what happens in the US over to Israel?"





# NEWS

in brief

## Gunfire at settler car in Hebron

Shots were fired late last night at a settler car in Hebron, Israel. Radio reported. Nobody was reported hurt, but bullet casings were found at the site and security forces were searching the area. The road between Kiryat Arba and Machpela Cave was shut to traffic. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Israel delivers aid to three countries

Israel will be helping the Albanian government absorb the tens of thousands of refugees that have gone there from war-torn Kosovo, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday. It will be coordinating the delivery of equipment through the Rome embassy.

The foreign ministry is also sending drugs and medical equipment to aid children in Moldova. The flight carrying the aid leaves today.

Aid will also go to the Yakuta area of the Russian federation, where 14 people were killed and over 150,000 were left homeless by heavy floods. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

## Groups for Lebanon withdrawal to hold vigil

The Movement to Leave Lebanon in Peace and the Four Mothers Movement announced they will hold a protest vigil outside the Defense Ministry tomorrow at noon, 100 days after the cabinet's decision to adopt Security Council Resolution 425.

In addition, Labor MKs Yossi Beilin, Haggai Merom and Nissim Ziv will tour the international border between Israel and Syria today to understand the security and water problems to be debated as part of the peace agreement with Syria. *Michal Yudelman*

## Palestinians ask Israel to return fighters' bodies

The Palestinian Authority yesterday asked Israel to hand over the bodies of hundreds of Palestinians killed in border skirmishes with the IDF. The terrorists are buried in a desert graveyard in the Jordan Valley, with numbers instead of names marking each grave. Most of those interred tried to infiltrate into Israel from neighboring Arab countries. The PA made its request in a letter by chief negotiator Saeb Erekat to cabinet secretary Dan Naveh. "It is high time to assist the families who would like to know about their relatives after long years," Erekat wrote. The IDF Spokesman said it would look into the matter. *AP*

## Girl suspected of torching neighbors' flat

A 12-year-old girl is suspected of setting fire to her neighbors' Ramat Gan apartment on June 15, because she was having an argument with their daughter, police said.

Police said a fire in the living room was destroyed and there was damage to another room.

The girl said she had stolen her neighbors' key from the wife's pocketbook earlier that morning and entered the apartment when they were out. The girl was released on bail yesterday. *Itim*

## Man killed in car accident

One man was killed and seven people were injured yesterday when a car overturned south of the Hebron Hills.

Police said that the car entered a rightward curve in the road at high speed and that the driver lost control of the car.

One of the wounded was seriously hurt and the others were lightly injured. All were taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. *Itim*

## Helicopters and planes fight Golan fires

Brushfires in the Golan spread rapidly yesterday, and police were forced to close several main roads out of concern for the safety of drivers. Thousands of dunams of natural brushland have gone up in flames. Galilee Fire and Rescue Service chief Danny Hananya said that IDF firefighting helicopters and light planes were helping to extinguish flames in an area that has minefields. "We are talking about huge fires," he said. *Itim*

## Third youth arrested for Hebron violence

A third youth, a minor, was arrested yesterday in connection with the weekend vandalism on horseback in Hebron, while the second minor in the case had his remand extended two more days.

The two are suspected, together with Netanel Nir, of going on a rampage to avenge the murder in April of Dov Driben on a farm near Hebron.

None of the suspects is cooperating with police. *Itim*

## Wife jumps from window as husband arrested

Ravella Buatang, 34, of Ghana jumped from the kitchen window of her third-floor apartment in Eilat on Tuesday night while her husband, Issac Watham, 40, was being arrested at the front door by policemen searching for illegal foreign workers. She suffered skull fractures, a broken shoulder, and other serious injuries and is recovering in the intensive care unit at the city's Josephthal Hospital. Buatang told reporters that she jumped, not because she fears returning to Ghana, but because "I was afraid they would take me to the police station. I was afraid of the humiliation and the terrible condition of being divorced." *Itim*

## PULLBACK

Continued from Page 1

Morocco also is said to be disturbed about the diplomatic impasse. Its displeasure evidently was expressed by King Hassan in a recent letter to US President Bill Clinton. Clinton also was described as having lost patience with the lack of progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track.

Coalition considerations are another factor propelling Netanyahu toward closing the pullback deal.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday he is giving the cabinet until the end of the month to decide on the matter.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky denies that he issued an ultimatum for a deal to be cut, but he insists that there is no sense in prolonging the murky status quo.

Sharansky advocates recognition of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat as "Israel's only peace partner."

If this is impossible, Sharansky recommends that "Netanyahu should explain the situation to the general public." He argues that the issue must be decided

now, one way or another.

The impending Knesset adjournment at the end of this month is also cited as a factor governing Netanyahu's timetable. If he fails to elicit a policy decision from the inner cabinet before Sharon's departure, it may be impossible for him to submit the withdrawal deal to the Knesset in time to win parliamentary authorization, which he desires.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke yesterday by telephone with Arafat and twice with Netanyahu, following four separate Albright-Netanyahu phone conversations over the weekend, Rubin said.

"Clearly we're in an intensified effort here. And what I'm suggesting to you is that at this stage the primary contacts are telephone contacts... The fact of the matter is we are in an intensive end-game negotiation on the US ideas that is designed to put the Middle East peace process back on track," Rubin said at his daily briefing.

He added that it is "extremely important that a decision be made" on the American proposal, "and that it be made as soon as possible."

Rubin also reiterated Washington's view of the core

# 17 arrested in Lebanon on suspicion of being Israeli agents

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

Seventeen Lebanese Druse and Shi'ites have been arrested by security forces in the Bekaa Valley region on suspicion of being Israeli agents, according to reports from Beirut.

The reports quoting Lebanese security sources said the arrests followed the defection to the Lebanese army two weeks ago of a South Lebanese Army security official.

According to the reports, also carried by Israel Radio, the man, who acted as a security official in the eastern sector of the security zone, had given the Lebanese authorities the names of 22 Druse and Shi'ites working for Israel.

They had allegedly been passing information to Israel about the movements of

Hizbullah forces, Lebanese army troops and Syrian soldiers in Lebanon.

Five of those on the list of alleged agents managed to evade capture and escaped to the security zone, the reports said.

Lebanese newspapers have carried stories in the past few days of a round-up by Lebanese security forces of agents suspected of working for and having close ties with Israel.

A government prosecutor in Lebanon yesterday said the 17 were among 77 people suspected of passing information to Israel on Lebanese and Syrian troop movements and the activities of terrorists.

Nasri Lahoud said that the 77 faced charges for "the crimes of contacting the Israeli enemy and its agents" and passing information to them.

If convicted, the suspects could face the death penalty, the prosecutor's office said.

The 77 were also accused of "entering enemy territory" - visiting Israel - which carries a one-year jail sentence.

According to the Lebanese army intelligence department, the group was formed in 1995 to monitor military movements in areas outside the security zone.

The suspects sent letters written in invisible ink to contacts in Athens, the statement said.

One of the suspects received \$7,300 for the 11 letters he sent to Athens.

Lebanese newspaper reports said that the alleged agents had access to Israel as well as to Lebanon and were able to travel freely to Beirut and back to the security zone.

Some of those reportedly arrested were

Druse clerics and some were women. There was no confirmation of the reports from any other sources.

The latest reports follow the recently announced arrest of 11 other Lebanese on suspicion of being members of an underground group believed responsible for a series of bomb attacks, mainly against Syrian targets in Lebanon in the past few months.

Those arrested in that case were believed to be members of the banned Lebanese Forces, the main Christian militia involved in the inter-ethnic fighting in Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

The arrests followed the deaths of two group members when a bomb they were transporting exploded in their car, north of Beirut, on June 19.

## Arafat meets with Turkish FM

By STEVE RODAN, MOHAMMED NAJIB and AMY KLEIN

Palestinian Authority chief Yasser Arafat met Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem yesterday as part of what PA officials termed an attempt to use Ankara's friendship with Israel to advance an IDF redeployment.

Arafat discussed the peace process and ways to improve relations between Turkey and PA.

Palestinian sources said Cem complained of Arab criticism of the Israeli-Turkish military cooperation.

"I think it has become fashionable in some Arab countries to talk about Turkey's relationship with Israel and say it is bad for the Arabs," Cem told reporters in Ramallah after his meeting with Arafat. "I don't think that."

Cem added that Turkey would never let its relations with another country affect its relationship with the Palestinians.

"If we are friends with Palestine, we are friends forever, and we do not bargain on our friendship," he said. "No one can say to us, 'We will give you so and so - but on your policy toward Palestine you have to move.'"

Later, Cem and PA International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath signed an accord in which Turkey pledged another \$1 million in aid to the PA in order to build an educational center.

PA officials said this sets total Turkish aid to the PA at \$50m.

At a news conference after his meeting with Arafat in Ramallah, Cem said he extended an invitation from President Suleiman Demirel for Arafat to visit Turkey.

He called on Israel and the PA to do all they can to advance the peace process.

Cem added that Jerusalem is a special spot for Turkey, and Ankara does not support unilateral measures to change the composition of the city.

Shaath warned that tensions between Israel and the PA could ignite at any time if the peace process remains stalled.

Earlier yesterday, Cem toured Al-Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.



Angry demo

Palestinians make the victory sign as they shout anti-Israel slogans at a Gaza City rally yesterday to protest against the plan to expand the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem. *(AP)*

# Israeli and Palestinian legislators call for implementing peace agreements

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

A group of Israeli MKs and 25 Palestinian counterparts issued a statement after a four-day conference in Rhodes last weekend calling for implementation of peace agreements and an avoidance of unilateral steps that could jeopardize a final status accord.

The conference was organized by the International Center for Peace in the Middle East and sponsored by the Greek government, the European Union and the Adenauer Foundation.

The Israeli delegation included MKs from the Likud, Shas and Yisrael Ba'Aliya, who had never met Palestinian officials before, as well as MKs from the Third Way, Geshet, Labor and Meretz.

Their debates focused on the final status agreements.

The joint statement they issued recognizes the efforts of the Palestinian Authority to prevent terrorism and advance peace, and calls on the Israeli government to alleviate the Palestinians' plight caused by the restrictions on movement for both individuals and merchandise.

The participants decided to set up a joint monitoring committee to supervise the implementation of the decisions and to prepare the next conference due in December.

At the same time and place, 120 Israeli and Palestinian senior journalists held the first media conference of its kind.

It was concluded with the Rhodes Statement, calling for

freedom of expression and movement for all journalists as a condition for professional journalism and advancing the peace culture.

The Rhodes Statement decided on active cooperation and exchange of information between Israeli and Palestinian journalists and called on the EU and UNESCO, whose representative

Alan Modou attended the conference, to help set up an Israeli-Palestinian Press House, which would be open and accessible to journalists of both sides.

The media conference was also organized by the Middle East Peace Center, headed by Ofra Bronchtein, and sponsored by Greece, the EU and the Adenauer Foundation.

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Address (inc. zip code): \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax no. \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. no. \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Witness noticed loose construction of Maccabiah bridge

An eyewitness testified yesterday that he heard a loud noise as police vehicles crossed over a footbridge shortly before it collapsed, plunging four members of the Australian Maccabiah team to their deaths, and had noticed how loosely the bridge was constructed.

"There was a roar of wooden boards that were not fastened down properly," Eli Feiglin, an employee of one of the sponsors of the Maccabiah Games opening ceremony, said in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. "I noticed the loud noise."

The bridge leading to the opening ceremonies buckled as the Australian team crossed on July 14 of last year. Dozens of athletes were injured after falling into the polluted Yarkon River.

Two contractors, the engineer who designed the bridge, the director of the games and the

chairman of the Maccabiah organizing committee are on trial on charges of negligent homicide and building without proper permits.

An engineer testified earlier that the bridge collapsed because of structural problems, and not because of the weight of the police motorcycle and all-terrain vehicles that crossed before the athletes.

Itamar Herman, chairman of the games' opening ceremony committee, testified yesterday that organizers did not learn until after the collapse that the bridge was built by a subcontractor, and not by the Irgunit company that handled most of the construction for the opening ceremonies.

Yoram Eyal, the organizing committee chairman, was "astonished" to learn that the bridge was built by a subcontractor, Herman said.

Herman said he spoke the next day to Adam Mishorin, the director of Irgunit and a defendant, "who said he was shocked and could not explain what happened."

Eyal's attorney, Dov Weissglas, said the Maccabiah organizers had "no reason to think that Irgunit was not capable of carrying out the projects, or to expect any problems with the bridge."

Another witness, Maccabiah comptroller Itamar Kanari, said he was also unaware that Irgunit was using a subcontractor to build the bridge.

Kanari said the Maccabiah only contracted with Irgunit to build the bridge in June - a month before the games - because until then the organizers had expected the IDF to agree to build the bridge for free.

(AP)



Haredim listen to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai during yesterday's Knesset debate on drafting yeshiva students. (Itzhak Harari)

## Court to rule on Bassiouny immunity on September

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court said yesterday that it will issue a ruling on September 27 about whether to lift Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny's diplomatic immunity.

Bassiouny has been accused of molesting belly dancer Shlomit Shalom in the Ramat Gan apartment of his friend, plastic surgeon Dr. Yehoshafat Shulman. She is suing the ambassador for \$1 million, after criminal charges were dropped.

Shalom's attorney, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, said yesterday that the court had backed her position that Bassiouny was properly served with the civil complaint in December 1997.

That would effectively make Bassiouny a party to the law suit, and would ensure that the case against him will continue even in his absence, if he leaves his diplomatic posting in Israel, she said.

The bid to remove Bassiouny's diplomatic immunity is based on the argument that the rules of international law recognizing diplomatic immunity are overruled by the Israeli law anchoring Shalom's statutory right to claim damages.

Since, according to Darshan-Leitner, Bassiouny offered Shalom a job, the affair could be considered a commercial relationship, to which the ambassador's immunity does not apply.

The attorney-general's representatives strongly opposed lifting Bassiouny's immunity, demanding Shalom's complaint be dismissed.

They argued that diplomatic immunity is a 3,000 year old tradition and its inclusion in the Vienna Convention binds all states. The case is causing grave damage to Israel's relations with Egypt and may even endanger human life, the state's representatives said.

## It's business as usual in the 'army of God'

By GIL HOFFMAN

While the Knesset yesterday debated and defeated a bill to limit the number of yeshiva students exempted from conscription, it was business as usual at the Or Elhanan Yeshiva in Jerusalem's Romema neighborhood, where most students were aware of but unconcerned about the vote.

"I don't really care about the vote," Moshe Lebovich, 18, said. "I am serving in the army of God."

"The army doesn't need us anyway. The chief of staff said it him-

self," another student said.

While some students said they might eventually do a few months of service after they get married, there was a consensus at the yeshiva that their exemptions from the army are justified.

"My learning is what is protecting the state," said Zvi Freilech, 17, who would have been forced to join the army next year if not for the exemption. "It's very important to me that the state is protected and that there are people who do serve, but I don't want the army to mess me up."

Freilech was concerned that if he

did go to the army he would return less observant. He said that, although there are people who combine yeshiva studies with army service, he knows too many who have gone through such programs and come back secular.

"It matters how you look at it," said Itzhak Chadosh, 20, the son of the head of the yeshiva. "We want a Jewish state, not just a State of Israel, so the whole purpose there is a state at all is so that religious Jews will study Torah."

Chadosh acknowledged that what the Knesset says does not matter to

the students in the yeshiva. "Only what the rabbis say matters - and they're right," he said.

Freilech emphasized that he respects those of his age who do serve. "They are messengers of God and they are protecting me and they are doing a very important mitzva," Freilech said.

When asked about the vote, another student answered with a quote from Psalms, in which, according to his interpretation, King David says those who learn Torah are the people who really protect the land.

## Ethiopian leaders press Levy for role in education funding

By GIL HOFFMAN

Representatives of nine organizations for Ethiopian immigrants met yesterday with Education Minister Yitzhak Levy to ask that he reallocate NIS 230 million targeted for Ethiopian educational programs.

Levy responded favorably, but also stressed that the reallocation process would have to reflect a consensus of the Ethiopian groups.

"Give me a serious, professional program in an organized way with a consensus and you can do whatever you want," Levy said.

The representatives requested reallocation on the grounds that they were not involved in the original decision-making, done by a ministry steering committee that included Ethiopians.

In addition to the nine groups at

the meeting, there are another 33 Ethiopian organizations in Israel. All of them participate in a coalition aimed at promoting unity.

"The problem with the Ethiopian community in this country is that they just have too many people in charge," ministry spokesman Benny Shukrun said.

The coalition will meet Sunday to discuss how to better allocate the money.

The Ethiopian representatives were satisfied with the tone of the meeting, but skeptical that Levy's promise would hold up.

"The minister made it seem like we had a free hand in determining how to spend NIS 230 million. In the long run I doubt that will be the case," said Shoshana Ben-Dor, director of the Israel office of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry.

## Children with cancer treated to special camps

Hundreds of youngsters suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses are taking a breather in three free summer camps organized by voluntary organizations.

Zichron Menachem, established by the Ehrenthal family in memory of their son Menachem who died of cancer, has launched a 10-day annual event at Jerusalem's Boys Town.

Events include helicopter trips, comedy acts, a jeep tour, pyrotechnic exercises and visits from politicians.

The Chai Lifeline is holding the first of three separate camps at the Yemin Orde Youth Village for 300 children with cancer, cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

Ezer Mizion is running a five-day camp in Petah Tikva, where children up to the age of 16 will enjoy a visit to the Knesset and the zoo in Jerusalem, ride in jeeps in Caesarea and watch police units in action.

Judy Siegel

## ANALYSIS

By MARK A. HELLER

Labor Party spokesmen, reconciled to the likely failure of the "Barak Bill" limiting draft deferments and exemptions for yeshiva students, are already consoling themselves with the claim that they have at least managed to stimulate a public debate.

The truth is that making the public aware of government and opposition positions on this issue is not a consolation prize, but the primary objective.

Ever since Ehud Barak assumed chairmanship of the Labor Party, the main thrust of his strategy has been to attract enough of the "floating votes" in the critical center of the political spectrum to reverse Labor's narrow defeat in the last election.

It is not easy to identify the "wedge issue" that could make this happen.

## HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

### Moment of truth

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's declaration that a decision will be reached in a matter of days between the US and the government on the second redeployment indicates that "Netanyahu's stalling policy has exhausted itself," writes Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid.

Yediot Aharonot's Shimon Schiffer claims that Netanyahu has not decided what to do. "The premier is hoping that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat will wave the stubbornness flag," he writes.

### The liar campaign

The suggestion in the Labor Party to promote the idea that "Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is a liar," is a new record for political absurdity writes Ma'ariv's Chemi Shalev.

"Netanyahu's problem is not that he's a liar, but that he's an unsuccessful one," Shalev writes, adding that the public is not surprised when politicians lie, but they expect the lies to accomplish something.

Yosef Harif, also in Ma'ariv, states that if the premier goes ahead with the redeployment, as expected, then "Labor will have to support and vote with the 'liar'."

### Court attack

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon joined the criticism against Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's judicial activism and warned against the court's involvement in Knesset affairs. Ma'ariv's Rafi Man writes that

while Tichon should defend the Knesset's honor, it does not justify his "unfortunately, joining those who want to undermine the status of the Israeli court system."

He adds that the Supreme Court represents an enlightened means of controlling "the Knesset, which occasionally attempts to take advantage of the authority of the majority to damage basic democratic principles."

Ha'aretz's editorial states that

those who attempt to undermine the court's authority "are those interested parties...that try to neutralize any factor that can interrupt the spoiled government culture that has developed in Israel."

### Tax reform

"Between specialists in the Finance Ministry, in politics, and academe there is a consensus: Only a magician can implement tax reform," writes Moti Bassok in

Ha'aretz, referring to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's intent to eliminate a large number of existing tax exemptions.

Yediot's Sever Plotzker states that Neeman is determined to pass his reform and is even willing to resign if it is not accepted.

"Is it possible that Prof. Neeman sees in the tax reform an opportunity to get out of the job of finance minister? It is possible," Plotzker writes.

## Restricted 103 Service on Friday

On Friday, July 10, maintenance work and upgrading will be carried out on our central computer. As a result, the 103 Service will be available, only for the notification of outages.

We apologize for the temporary inconvenience caused.



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# VW to set up fund for WWII slaves

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Volkswagen shifted gears abruptly this week and agreed to set up a fund to compensate its slave laborers from World War II.

"It's a capitulation," said Klaus von Muenchhausen, a lecturer at the University of Bremen who last month threatened to sue the automaker if it did not compensate 30 Hungarian-born Israelis who had been interned in Auschwitz and forced to work at VW's factory in Wolfsburg in armaments production in 1944-45.

"Now we have to talk with the company about the money," he told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.

VW said it used about 7,000 slave laborers a year during 1944 and 1945 and would donate enough money to pay for all verifiable claims from that period.

About 300 of the laborers are thought to be alive, according to news accounts. Only three weeks ago, Volkswagen said the German government was liable for compensation.

However, it issued a statement Tuesday saying that its reversed decision was "in recognition of the historical and moral obligations" to those who were forced to work in its factories under the Third Reich.

There apparently was a political element as well.

Von Muenchhausen also had threatened to sue the government of Lower Saxony, which owns 20 percent of VW. The governor of Lower Saxony is Gerhard Schroeder, the Social Democrat who is opposing Helmut Kohl in the election for German chancellor.

Von Muenchhausen, a Jew whose mother was killed in Auschwitz, said he had been rebuffed or ignored by Jewish organizations when he appealed to them for help in the last several years.

In April, von Muenchhausen won a settlement in which the Diehl company of Nuremberg, whose factory made tanks, agreed to pay 150 slave laborers about DM 15,000 each. Von Muenchhausen believes other German firms will now follow suit.

"It's 50 years too late, but I believe that now all German companies will pay," he said. "They cannot ignore the Volkswagen decision; they must follow."

Some, such as the electronics giant Siemens, reached slave labor settlements soon after the war.

Siemens paid DM 7 million to the Claims Conference to compensate slave laborers but refused to acknowledge any legal or moral obligation, Benjamin Ferencz, a former Nuremberg prosecutor, wrote in his account of forced labor, "Less than Slaves."

Von Muenchhausen seems certain that all previous settlements will come under review. Although the Claims Conference accepted Siemens' settlement, he said, "I'm very sure they will pay."



A litter basket of lions

An attendant at the Ramat Gan Safari poses yesterday with a litter of five lion cubs born to a mother from Denmark and an Israeli father.

(Israel Sun)

## Parents association declares 'fee rebellion'

Parents Association chairman Shai Lahman yesterday urged parents to withhold education fees, in an attempt to force the Education Ministry to return funds owed parents from the school year that ended last month.

"We call upon all parents, from this moment, not to make any payments or sign bank debit orders," Lahman told a Tel Aviv press conference.

Lahman, referring to forms issued by the ministry, said: "The

two forms distributed for payments are null and void."

The one exception to the boycott call, he said, is the fee for textbook-lending programs in schools that have them.

Many schools have not returned money collected for class trips and other activities that were scrapped because of teachers' sanctions.

Lahman is also urging the cancellation of mandatory payments for equipment fees in accordance with commitments the organiza-

tion received from the Education Ministry.

The Education Ministry spokesman said in a statement that the equipment fees have not yet been set. As for other payments for trips and activities, "whoever is not interested in participating in them does not have to."

"As the minister [Yitzhak Levy] has already said, students who have not gone on trips this year and not enjoyed alternative educational and cultural activities, will

not be obliged to make an additional trip payment in the coming year," the statement said.

In a separate development, a three-day conference in Haifa of 7,000 educators, including 500 from abroad, is due to conclude today with a lecture by Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel. The conference, entitled "Education and the Test of Time" included speakers on a range of subjects, including emotional intelligence, child abuse and ethics for teachers.

(Ibm)

## Croatia asked to probe WWII commander

The Croatian government has been asked to investigate the wartime activities of Ivo Rojnic, the pro-Nazi Ustashi commandant of Dubrovnik who is suspected in the deportation of Jews to concentration camps and the confiscation of their property. The director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's office in Israel, Efraim Zuroff, submitted documents in the case to Acting Justice Minister Snjezana Bagic on a visit to Zagreb last week.

Jay Bushinsky

## Fund-raising for women's shelters

By NOAH STREET

Only one out of every four abused women is admitted to a shelter because there is not enough money to establish or expand them, the head of a campaign to fund shelters said yesterday.

Ruth Resnik, director of the Association for Stopping Violence Against Women and Children (ASV) revealed this at a fund-raising event yesterday attended by

President Ezer Weizman's wife Reuma, which was held in the courtyard of a shelter for abused women and children in Herzliya.

To raise funds, ASV has launched a fund-raising drive in conjunction with Hama Shbir Lazarchan to establish and fund shelters. A shelter costs about \$1.25 million to open.

Currently there are only 12 shelters in the country. The Herzliya shelter houses 16 women and 20 children.

## MINISTRY OF NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES FUEL AUTHORITY

Tender No. FA - 1/1998  
Purchase, Storage and Finance of Crude Oil  
Strategic Inventories for the State of Israel

Correction of Tender Notice published on 14.5.1998

The Tender Committee has decided to introduce an additional change into the Tender documents. The revised documents shall be available at the Fuel Authority Office (216 Jaffa St., Jerusalem) from 12.7.1998

The final date for submission of proposals has been extended to 13.8.1998, 16:00.

Yoav Armoni  
Head of the Fuel Authority

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## 'Medical technology helpless in face of laser weapons'

By JUDY SEGAL

Medical knowledge has failed behind warfare technology, say doctors who know too little about how to protect soldiers from being blinded by laser weapons, mass-produced for the battlefield or treat them once they're injured.

So says a team from the Israel Medical Corps, Sheba Hospital and Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine, who wrote in the medical journal *Harefuah* about the nightmarish subject of laser weapons.

Dr. Yaniv Barkana, Amir Alkalai and Michael Stein and Prof. Michael Belkin warn that the weapon of lasers replacing bullets and bloodless falling victims instead of bloody wounds is no longer the stuff of science fiction.

"It is already being developed as part of the U.S. military's Star Wars Project," they write in the latest issue of the journal. And no one is certain which other armies are working on such weapons.

First developed in 1960, laser radiation has been applied for civilian purposes such as surgery, compact disk machines, supermarket scanners and multimedia events.

But the military soon jumped on the technology, developing exact distance and target monitors using optic sensors and laser systems to disrupt these sensors — which can cause intentional or accidental harm to soldiers.

Lasers now being used or developed harm only the eye, the authors note, because the structure of this organ causes the focus of the rays on a small portion of the retina.

The eye's lens concentrates the rays, greatly increasing their energy level. At night, when the pupils are more dilated, the amount of damage is much greater, when the soldier looks into the rays with optical devices, the damage to his eye is multiplied.

With minimal exposure, the eye may be only temporarily blinded, but more prolonged exposure and more powerful rays can cause more harm.

The doctors say that during the past few years, a number of countries have been developing and testing laser weapons "that damage the eye, but most information is kept confidential."

Surgeons can protect their eyes with special goggles, because they know the wavelength of the rays, but in war the wavelengths vary; it is impractical, the authors note, to wear goggles with several filters at once because they would block out most of regular light entering the eye.

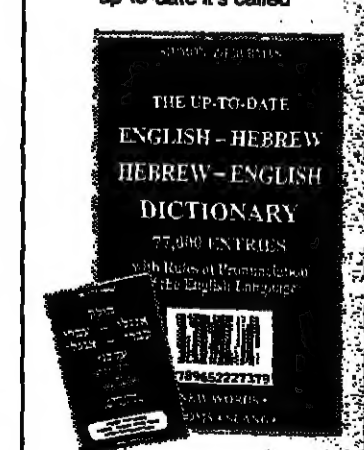
Soldiers whose sight seems to have been harmed by in laser accidents can today be examined with special test cards, and the IDF already has these in the field.

Expert ophthalmologists can operate in hospitals on patients whose capillaries have exploded and hemorrhaged in the eye, but they would be unable to cope with a major laser weapon attack on the battlefield at this point.

The IDF Spokesman had no comment on the *Harefuah* report.

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# Haredim clash with police on Route 1

By AMY KLEIN

Police and haredim clashed at the construction site of the new Pisgat Ze'ev road in northern Jerusalem, where work resumed yesterday after a six-month hiatus.

With batons and fists, police pushed and dragged some 20 haredim from in front of a bulldozer to allow the work to continue. Five haredim who attacked policemen were taken in for questioning. No one was injured.

Work on the northern section of Route 1 was halted six months ago by the municipality due to pressure from haredim over ancient bones discovered there by the Antiquities Authority. The haredim, who were opposed to removing the bones from a 50-meter hill in the path of the road, have reached a compromise with the municipality.

Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Uri Lupolianski said that a halachic solution was reached. "The agreed-upon solution is to move the graves from the road and bury them nearby," said Lupolianski.

The Antiquities Authority was back at the site yesterday, and will resume its work next week. The five trucks and four bulldozers from the Moriah construction company - in addition to working on non-controversial parts of the road - were clearing an area north of the road for the bones to be

reburied.

But the halachic solution, given by Jerusalem Chief Rabbi Kohn, was apparently not satisfactory to all haredim.

By 10 a.m., a handful of haredim had come to the site, but the police sent them away without incident. However, by noon they were back, with carloads more on the way.

The Satmar and Toldot Aharon haredim came to the site in response to new signs posted in Mea She'arim yesterday morning. "Prepare for a great struggle for our existence!" proclaimed the signs, calling for a renewed, grand protest against moving any bones.

The signs were sponsored by Atza Kadisha, a volunteer haredi organization that does not accept the ruling to move bones. Every morning, Yisrael Eisenbach, a member of Atza Kadisha, stands watch, ready to call haredim to the site as soon as the bulldozers begin work.

"The protests are just beginning!" shouted one haredi yesterday as he was pushed away from the site by police. "Be warned!" Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has promised residents that the road will be completed by the end of September. Despite the clashes at the site, the mayor's spokeswoman said, "The mayor stands by his promise. Northern route No. 1 will be finished in September."



Policemen remove a haredi demonstrator from the Pisgat Ze'ev road construction site yesterday. (Brian Henderson)

## MKs back Antiquities Authority and Drori

By AMY KLEIN

The Knesset Education and Culture Committee yesterday agreed to back the work of the Antiquities Authority and its director, Amir Drori.

The committee discussed the threat to archeology and the authority in light of recent reports that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intends to

replace Drori at the demand of haredi parties, which also want to appoint a religious committee to supervise excavations.

"When graves are discovered, a supervisory committee is established," said committee member MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism). "The Antiquities Authority determines the course of action. I don't agree with that. We have

lost faith in the authority," he said.

Drori told the panel he is opposed to appointing a committee of non-professionals. He said the haredi pressure which halted many digs over the past two years has hurt the economy, tourism, employment, and the country's development by preventing the paving of roads and completion of construction.

Aside from Gafni, the rest of the committee members - all from non-haredi parties - agreed to support the authority's work.

"I support the director-general of the Antiquities Authority and its workers," said committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann (The Third Way). "We must find a way to continue free and scientific excavations in Israel; yet we must consider the religious

public and find a solution acceptable to both sides."

The committee decided to reestablish a sub-committee to find solutions acceptable to both sides. It will comprise two archeologists and two haredim, under the chairmanship of Deputy Attorney-General Noam Silber, and meet with Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron.

## Foreign workers abandoning children in Tel Aviv

By LIAT COLLINS

In the last six months, some 20 children of foreign workers have been abandoned by their parents in the Tel Aviv area, according to Ze'ev Friedman, head of the Tel Aviv Municipality's welfare division. In presenting this figure yesterday to the Knesset Committee on Foreign Workers, he added that he is not surprised that workers who live in "inhuman conditions" display such problems.

Child Protection Council head Yitzhak Kadman said abandonment is only one of a large range of problems affecting the children of foreign workers. He said there is also a phenomenon of women who become pregnant selling their children, noting that a few weeks ago a pregnant worker from Romania distributed flyers in mailboxes in Herzliya offering the baby for sale.

Yehiel Mahdon of the South Tel Aviv welfare division said the fact the illegal workers fear being deported and hide from social workers makes it difficult to detect children at risk.

There are children who have been abandoned by their parents who are being looked after by other foreign workers and some children who are suffering from garbage bins, according to Varda Dickstein, who deals with the issue of foreign workers for Tel Aviv Municipality. She also said there are some children who were left behind when their parents were deported.

Committee chairman Ophir Pines (Labor) said that if the government does not determine a clear policy this could lead to a disaster, and the first victims would be children.

At the beginning of the committee meeting, MKs were shown video footage from the civil war in Sierra Leone, showing people being summarily imprisoned and killed. A worker from Sierra Leone said his compatriots fear that if they are deported back there they will be killed.

## Approval of Haifa marina project deferred

By DAVID RUDGE

Environmentalists were seeing green and the Haifa Economic Development Corporation was seeing red yesterday following Tuesday's decision to defer approval of plans for Haifa's multi-million dollar marina and hotels complex project off the Bat Galim beach.

The National Building and Planning Commission again deferred approval of the project and called for the submission

within a month of a new plan that would incorporate all development proposals for the Haifa coastline, including the marina and hotels project.

The decision yesterday was warmly welcomed by environmentalists but angered the municipality and its Economic Development Corporation, which has been promoting the scheme for the past 12 years.

The commission, after two hours of discussions, basically agreed to accept the position of Environment

Ministry director-general Nehama Ronen not to approve the scheme on its own, but to demand a comprehensive plan.

"There is no desire to bury the project or stop it," Ronen told reporters after the decision. "There is a desire, however, which was voiced by virtually all the members of the commission, to reconsider the project and the real need of Haifa for a marina."

She maintained that it was permissible to leave some natural coastal areas for the benefit of the

public at large and not just those involved in real estate, especially in light of other developments along the Haifa coastline.

Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna said the municipality had a comprehensive plan, which it would submit to the National Building and Planning Commission within a month.

The project had passed all the previous planning and building stages, and the decision yesterday to defer it was seen as an anti-entrepreneurial measure.

## Women's network to battle plan for boosting birthrate

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Israeli Women's Network will launch a "public struggle" against the Israel Demographic Council's plan for increasing the Jewish birthrate and preventing abortions.

"Women aren't a walking womb to serve demographic purposes," the organization said yesterday. "Encouraging childbirth will directly harm working women. We will appeal to the High Court of Justice if the council investigates pregnant women considering an abortion."

IWN was reacting to a report in Ha'aretz yesterday that the council will soon present to the government

a plan for increasing the Jewish birthrate and reducing the number of abortions.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said at Tuesday's meeting of the council that solutions must be found to increase the number of Jews. After the Holocaust, the Jewish people numbered 12 million, he said, and they remain at about this level today.

The council, affiliated with the ministry, was established in 1967 to conduct research and educational activities to promote Jewish population growth.

The plan reportedly includes an information campaign in which

every woman who learns she's pregnant and is considering an abortion will hear reasons for continuing with the pregnancy.

The center also wants follow-up on women who have a legal abortion, so they can be persuaded not to have another one. Additional economic benefits would also be offered large families.

IWN chairman Rivka Meller-Olshtinsky said "the decision on how many children one has is personal; the state should aim at controlled population growth and teaching family planning."

She added that mothers face many difficulties in being

accepted for work. The state should first ensure that reasonably priced day care centers are available to working women, she added, along with a universal long school day and tax reductions for child care expenses.

## NEWS

in brief

### Haifa lifeguard strike ends

Lifeguards in Haifa and nearby Kiryat Haim, whose strike left the city's beaches unguarded since last Friday, are to return to work this morning, after the municipality last night accepted principles drawn up two weeks ago as the basis for an agreement for better pay and conditions. The municipality informed the Histadrut, which supported the strike by the nearly 60 lifeguards, that negotiations would resume immediately after a return to work to reach an agreement as quickly as possible. As a result of the move, the Histadrut dropped plans to call selective strikes of other municipality departments in solidarity with the lifeguards. David Rudge

### Metal thieves steal 80-meter Bezeq cable

Another underground Bezeq cable has been stolen, this time in Jaffa, Bezeq said yesterday. An 80-meter segment was cut and taken, apparently to sell for its copper. The thieves caused dozens of phone lines in the area to be disconnected. Bezeq recently set up a team to catch such thieves in the act: on Tuesday night, they apprehended a man who was apparently responsible for 15 such incidents in the past. In one case, the suspect disconnected Gali Zahal's switchboard when he cut the cable. Judy Siegel

### Date set for hearing against delay Deri vote

The High Court of Justice has set July 19 as the date of the hearing on the petition of two watchdog organizations against the Knesset House Committee's decision to postpone a vote on lifting the immunity of Shas MK Aryeh Deri.

The hearing will take place before a panel of nine justices because of the sensitivity of the petitioners' request that the court nullify the committee's decision. The petitions were presented by the Movement for Quality Government and Amitai. Dan Izenberg

### Supreme Court trims Ecuadorian's punishment

The Supreme Court yesterday shortened the punishment of an Ecuadorian tourist who had been convicted of physically and sexually assaulting his girlfriend.

The district court had sentenced the tourist, Mario Makes, to 10 years in prison. The Supreme Court cut two years off of the punishment.

Makes and his partner arrived in Israel two years ago with their daughter, intending to work. Two weeks after their arrival, Makes assaulted and wounded her. He then ordered her to undress and sodomized her.

Makes' lawyer told the court that his punishment should be in accordance with that in Ecuador, which, she said, should have been public service and a fine. The judges rejected that argument. Itim.

### Axelrod appeals murder sentence

Yigal Axelrod yesterday appealed his life-plus-20-years sentence for the September 1997 murder and attempted rape of Tamar Brez in Ramat Gan. His attorney, Alon Rom, told the Supreme Court that the Tel Aviv District court had erred when it preferred the psychiatric evaluation provided by the prosecution over that offered by the defense. He argued that his client committed the crimes under diminished responsibility and that Axelrod's consecutive sentence was excessive and should be made to run concurrently. Itim

### Probe of alleged 'Golan underground' denied

Police and the IDF yesterday denied reports of an alleged underground organization on the Golan Heights. Israel Radio and Ma'ariv said an inquiry had been launched after the discovery of a large quantity of IDF equipment at Kibbutz Afik and of weapons at the home of a former soldier at Kibbutz Dan. Police said no link had been found between the two incidents, nor any trace of a resistance against the future evacuation of the Golan. The IDF Spokesman said a soldier on Afik had been asked by his commanding officer to store surplus equipment and a Kalashnikov rifle and other weapons found on Dan had been taken home by the veteran during his army service. David Rudge

### Rishon man gets artificial heart

Eliezer Rosen, a 53-year-old resident of Rishon LeZion yesterday became the fourth recipient of an artificial heart in Israel. Rosen had been waiting for a conventional heart transplant for a year, but his condition deteriorated a few weeks ago and no donor organ was available. Judy Siegel

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## An Arab summit?

Arab summit meetings are impressive affairs. Only at such gatherings does the entire Arab world, from Morocco's Atlantic shore to the Persian Gulf, speak with a single voice.

Therefore, the attempt to organize a summit to criticize Israel over the peace process is the most important Arab initiative going on today.

The really surprising fact, though, is how difficult it is for the Arab states to get that conference together.

The three-way meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordan's King Hussein, and Palestinian Authority chief Yasser Arafat in Cairo on Sunday is only a small step in that direction. From Israel's standpoint, despite Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's disapproval, that particular meeting might be a good thing.

Whatever one's view of Israel's policy on the peace process, the Arab side clearly has a strong basis for complaint about the slow pace of negotiations.

Arafat has been pleading for concerted Arab action for months, even years, with relatively little result. True, Arab leaders constantly complain to the United States and Europe about Israel's policy and urge pressure on Netanyahu. But when it comes to their own action, there is far less happening.

Even those skeptical about Arab unity and cooperation might have expected a more powerful and coordinated response.

Aside from long-term historical factors and precedents, there are two key – and very significant – reasons for the Arab ineffectiveness: internal disputes and mistrust over issues having nothing to do with the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Perhaps most important is the controversial question of Iraq's reintegration into the Arab world. There are many small signs of détente between some Arab countries and Baghdad. Sanctions against Iraq are clearly declining.

But are Arab leaders ready to have Iraq participate fully at a summit for the first time since the Arab League condemned Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait eight years ago?

Kuwait came up with an ingenious response. It would not oppose Iraq's participation, but if Baghdad attended the meeting, Kuwait would not.

There are many other important issues which have either developed or been left unresolved since the last Arab summit in March 1997. Should these questions – sanctions on Iraq, attitude towards Iran, Algeria's civil war, and so on – be addressed by the meeting?

An exclusive focus on Israel would make a stronger statement, but why convene two

dozen Arab leaders and ignore other burning problems?

Even the location of the meeting is controversial. At the last Arab summit, Syria was named host of the next gathering.

But Egypt, always jealous of its primacy among Arabs, would prefer to have the summit in Cairo.

Jordan, upset over Syrian sponsorship of terrorism on Jordanian soil, is also uncomfortable with Damascus as a venue. On the political level, holding the session in Damascus would give Syria a home-court advantage to press its own concerns.

There is not even a consensus regarding the peace process or Israel itself.

The greatest international accomplishment of the Oslo process, even though many in Israel do not yet recognize it, was that it shook up the Arab political balance.

Today, some Arab states have a real material interest in limiting confrontation. Egypt, Jordan, and several countries in North Africa and the Gulf are very much committed to a peaceful resolution of the dispute. Even the PA, the party with the most bitter complaints against Israel, is ready to stick to some clear limits which would have been unthinkable before 1993.

Indeed, aside from Syria (and, unwillingly, its Lebanese satellite), Iraq (still an Arab outsider), and laughing-stock Libya, almost all Arab states have a far different attitude toward the Arab-Israeli conflict than they did in the past.

Even if they are unwilling to make peace, they do not want to risk crisis, not only with Israel but also with the United States. And Washington has urged the Arabs to postpone a summit until the second redeployment, which would, of course, defuse the conference's passion.

Syria, in particular, is pushing for tough, binding decisions which would embolden the more moderate states. However, even Syria's maximum position is unlikely to force a change in Israeli policy.

The situation is well-summarized by Zoe Danon Gedal in the Washington Institute for Near East Policy Peacewatch: "Parties that have signed agreements with Israel call for a summit as the way to save the peace process by pressuring Israel to be more forthcoming in negotiations."

In contrast, opponents "want the summit to serve as a death certificate for the peace process and a license for adopting new strategies of steadfastness and confrontation in the conflict with Israel."

Within Israel, critics of the Oslo process can claim that Netanyahu's policies have not yet destroyed Israel's position in the region. Supporters of the peace process can take comfort knowing that the window of opportunity is still open, and for far more than just a few weeks.



Barry Rubin

## CNN in turmoil over nerve gas story

CNN chief executive Tom Johnson told colleagues Monday that he had twice submitted his resignation over the nerve gas story that the network had to retract, but was rebuffed each time by Ted Turner, CNN's founder.

Johnson also told his staff in a conference call that he is taking another look at possible punishment for Peter Arnett, the Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent on the story, according to several participants in the call. Johnson said he came within a hair of firing Arnett but reprimanded him instead, in part because of his courage in reporting from Baghdad during the Persian Gulf War.

Arnett called in to defend himself during a second conference call, declaring that "I contributed not one comma" to the story.

He said he had helped build CNN's reputation and he was "not going to let my reputation go down the tubes" over the controversy. He said he was "shocked" to hear his job is on the line.

Arnett said he was reporting from Iraq during much of the eight-month investigation into allegations that US troops used deadly sarin gas in Laos in 1970 and targeted American defectors.

When he returned, he said, he was busy giving speeches.

He acknowledged his role might seem surprising for someone of his "stature."

When he raised questions with April Oliver and Jack Smith, the CNN producers fired over the story, he was presented with several hundred pages of documentation, Arnett said. When he joined in two key interviews, he asked questions from several pages prepared by Oliver.

And it was Oliver who wrote the accompanying piece for Time magazine, CNN's corporate partner, with his name apparently ticked on for "marketing reasons," he said.

Johnson told his troops that Richard Davis, who now oversees CNN's Washington talk shows, has been named executive vice president for standards and practices, an office created in the wake of last week's apology for the June 7 report on "NewsStand: CNN & Time."

The intensity of the turmoil at the Atlanta-based network was reflected in the unusually personal criticism several CNN staffers made of their bosses during the first conference call with dozens of staffers from the



CNN attorney Floyd Abrams is flanked by TV cameramen as he appears on CNN's "Talk Back Live" last week. Abrams, in a 60-page report, concluded there was insufficient evidence to support a CNN report claiming the US military used nerve gas during a Vietnam war mission in Laos to kill American defectors. CNN retracted the story and has apologized.

network's bureaus.

Johnson and CNN/USA President Rick Kaplan sought to take full responsibility for the fiasco during what turned into a heated, often angry discussion.

Both Johnson, a former Los Angeles Times publisher who once worked in Lyndon Johnson's White House, and Kaplan, who was brought in last summer after years as a top producer at ABC, reviewed the nerve gas story before it aired. But Kaplan seems to have become the lightning rod for internal criticism.

Kaplan says he considered resigning over the retracted charges but decided he had not played a significant enough role in the story's editing.

During the morning conference call, some staffers demanded to know how Kaplan, with his high-level experience, could have approved the nerve gas story.

One brought up his involvement with the ABC "PrimeTime Live" story on Food Lion supermarkets,

which prompted a \$5.5 million jury verdict against the network over its use of hidden cameras.

Kaplan, a former "PrimeTime" executive producer, defended the Food Lion story, noting the jury award was reduced on appeal to \$315,000. Kaplan was fined \$35,000, but that was later cut to \$7,500.

Much of the staff's anger was also directed at Arnett.

Andrea Koppel, CNN's diplomatic reporter, questioned the nature of Arnett's job and whether the CNN brass is protecting him, participants said. Had it been a less famous correspondent, she said, that person would have been fired or should have resigned.

Some producers questioned how they could have confidence in Arnett's reports in the future.

Other staffers wondered during the call whether the network was simply trying to make a big splash for the debut of "NewsStand," which both Kaplan and Oliver have denied.

Days before the segment aired, Jamie McIntyre, CNN's Pentagon correspondent, wrote a memo questioning several weaknesses in the piece, particularly the account of retired Adm. Thomas Moorer, 86, who was presented as a confirming source although he never claimed firsthand knowledge that nerve gas was used.

Jeff Greenfield, co-anchor of "NewsStand," faulted his own performance, saying in an interview that he failed to ask enough questions because he was "so wrapped up in the creation of a new show. I was way too distant from the story for my own good. My radar was jammed."

CNN came under immediate pressure from current and former military officials after the piece aired. Johnson sought out former secretary of state Henry Kissinger and retired Gen. Colin Powell, both of whom said he should retract the story.

"There was considerable empathy in the military community of the

United States to the broadcast," said Floyd Abrams, the media lawyer who found in a report for CNN that the story was both unproven and unfair.

"I had a four-star general break down in tears on the phone with me as he talked about the injustice, as he viewed it, of the broadcast."

Smith and Oliver say the CNN retraction was linked to military pressure. Oliver, in a letter to Kaplan, called it "an organized attack full of untruths and brutal slander."

The producers say Johnson ordered them to meet with chief Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon and other officials to assist in the Pentagon's probe of the nerve gas charges.

"Rick Kaplan did not want to take the heat of congressional hearings," Smith said.

Tom Johnson caved in to the commercial pressure being brought on him," he added, referring to alleged threats by retired military officers to contact CNN's advertisers and local cable companies. "Kaplan caved. Johnson caved."

Smith also said he and Oliver had been "deceived" because they were repeatedly promised a chance to respond to Abrams' findings, with one meeting scheduled with CNN's legal counsel for noon Thursday – the precise hour the report was released.

"It's a sham report, a fake that allowed the company to lynch us and get this behind them," Smith said.

Abrams strongly disputed Smith's account, saying the producers had repeatedly provided him with information and wrote him a 19-page, 47-point rebuttal to the main criticisms of the story.

"We spent a good deal of time with her and with him at CNN over a four-day period," Abrams said. "We were and are aware of their views on every relevant issue."

In a widely circulated July 4 memo, McIntyre, the Pentagon reporter, said he was "angry" at Smith and Oliver for the "multitude of journalistic sins they committed" in pursuit of their "conspiracy theory."

He said the two producers owe an apology to "their colleagues at CNN, whose reputations and credibility have been grievously wounded by this shoddy piece of journalism." (Washington Post)

## In the US police are brutal too

By JONATHAN WRIGHT

The largest US human rights group accused the US federal and local governments on Tuesday of turning a blind eye to chronic and widespread brutality by police officers.

Human Rights Watch, releasing a detailed report on police behavior in 14 cities, said the brutality was one of the most serious, enduring and divisive human rights violations in the United States. It said members of the black and Hispanic minorities were the victims in disproportionate numbers.

The National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACOP) dismissed the report as unfair, disgusting and despicable.

The report said policemen engage in unjustified shootings, severe

beatings, fatal chokings and unnecessarily rough physical treatment in cities throughout the United States.

"Their police superiors, city officials and the Justice Department fail to act decisively to restrain or penalize such acts or even record the magnitude of the problem," it added.

Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, said that in this respect the United States resembled authoritarian states, and its record at home could damage the government's efforts to push for improved human rights abroad.

"The key officials are so clearly failing in their duty to combat police brutality. As in many repressive countries, police officers in the United States commit brutality because they are permitted to remain above the law," Roth told a

news conference to launch the 440-page report.

"We fear that the US government's failure to address this serious human rights problem risks undermining US credibility in addressing human rights abuses in the rest of the world."

"We hope to make America's official tolerance of police brutality the international scandal it should be," he added.

The police response came from NACOP founding director Gerald Arenberg.

"This group's report is unfair, uninformed and downright disgusting and despicable," he said in a statement.

"It presents a false negative picture. We're not saying there aren't a few bad cops (but) the fact is that most US law officers act in appropriate

accordance with the intense level of danger their responsibilities present," he said.

The report gives few figures for the overall incidence of police brutality and does not come to any conclusions on whether the police have grown more or less violent.

Roth and the author of the report, Allyson Collins, said this was because good data are not available. Even where the police count the number of complaints, the numbers are open to various interpretations, they said.

A Civil Complaint Review Board in New York received 18,336 complaints against police officers between 1993, when it became independent, and 1996. It upheld 972, leading to disciplinary action against 215 officers and the dismissal of one.

But it is impossible to judge how many of the complaints are frivolous or how many serious ones are ignored.

The Clinton administration, despite its links with the minority communities, has made no more prosecutions in civil rights cases than the previous Bush administration, Roth said.

In 1997, it made 29 prosecutions from 11,000 civil rights complaints, many of them against the police.

"At the state and local level we find indifference and complicity, beginning with the many cops on the beat who honor a code of silence. It extends to police commanders and supervisors who frequently ignore brutality," Roth said.

(Reuters)

### ISRAEL ELECTRIC

### TENDERS

Further to our notices published on May 7 and June 18, 1998, the following amendments apply to the preconditions given in those notices:

**Tender 658836 - Agreement for International Freight and Customs Clearing**  
Stage A - Technical/commercial proposal without prices

The amendments apply to the scope of the insurance policy, professional responsibility, and the scope of customs clearing of sea borne freight.  
The last date for submitting bids has been changed to July 25, 1998, at 11 a.m.

**Tender 663833 - Agreement for the supply of isolators for outdoor installation and accessories**

Stage A - Technical/commercial proposal without prices

The amendments apply to compliance with standard ISO 9001 and know-how agreements.

The last date for submitting bids has been changed to July 19, 1998, at 11 a.m.

Prospective bidders are invited to read the section on preconditions, in the IEC's Internet site: WWW.ISRAEL-ELECTRIC.CO.IL and the tender documents.

The tender documents may be perused in the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sd. Pal-Yam, Haifa, Tel. 04-888 7454/5, and the Sales Dept., 90 Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-585 4679.

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הכזה מן האל



## US urges immediate release of Nigerian detainees

ABUJA (Reuters) — US envoy Thomas Pickering said yesterday the United States now wants the "immediate" release of all Nigerian political detainees following the sudden death of jailed opposition leader Moshood Abiola.

Pickering, who witnessed Abiola's dramatic death from a heart attack on Tuesday, said freeing remaining detainees was a condition for ending symbolic sanctions Washington had imposed to push Nigeria to improve its human rights and democratic record.

Asked at a news conference what Nigeria must do for the sanctions to be lifted, Pickering, an undersecretary of state and former ambassador to Nigeria, said: "An early — I would say immediate now — and unconditional release of remaining political prisoners and for a rapid, smooth, open, free and fair transition to civilian democratic rule."

"We re-emphasize the importance of releasing all remaining prisoners after the death of Chief Abiola," he said.

"Once achieved, these objectives will open the door for a transition from the sanctions process to the cooperative and partnership process that we came here to seek," Pickering said before flying out of the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

But he implied that the speed with which the limited sanctions, mainly covering air travel and visa restrictions on Nigerian officials, could be lifted, could depend on US lawmakers.

The imprisonment of Abiola, and hundreds of other Abacha opponents, was among human rights issues that prompted the United States and other Western nations to impose sanctions on Nigeria, which is America's biggest African trading partner.

Pickering acknowledged that "our visit has been overshadowed by Abiola's death," but insisted it had nevertheless achieved good progress in its aims of pushing Nigeria towards a rapid end to decades of army rule.

Pickering said Abiola had no chance to express his views on plans for his release from four years in prison when he fell ill at the start of their meeting in a villa in Abuja.

## Protestants continue to riot over blocked Orange parade

BELFAST (AP) — Belfast drivers made their way to work yesterday along roads strewn with burned-out cars and rioters' rubble after a third night of Protestant violence over restrictions on an Orange Order parade.

Leaders of Northern Ireland's 80,000-member Protestant brotherhood have vowed to stand their ground at an Anglican church outside Portadown, 50 kilometers southwest of Belfast, until British authorities let them march as usual down nearby Garvaghy Road past the town's main Catholic enclave.

Protesters there first tried to block the annual march in 1995. Under orders from a government-appointed Parades Commission, British security forces erected extensive barricades to block the July 5 march. The ensuing standoff has brought rioting to Northern Ireland for the third consecutive summer.

Police and soldiers gave under gunfire at they confronted mobs early yesterday in Protestant east Belfast, the Protestant section of Antrim, west of Belfast; and Newtownards, east of Belfast.

And in Protestant Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus to the north, rioters threw home-made grenades and gasoline bombs at police and army lines. Arsonists attacked a Catholic elementary school in Lisburn, a southwest Belfast suburb, and a shelter for homeless people in east Belfast, forcing its occupants to flee.

Yesterday morning army bomb-disposal experts defused a grenade attached to the gateway of a Catholic high school in north Belfast.

A Protestant mob menaced Catholic homes in Lurgan, Portadown's neighboring town, breaking windows and firing shots in the air. Such mutual threats over the past 30 years have ensured that Northern Ireland today is more segregated than ever before in its history.

The Orange Order — whose annual marches since the early 1800s proclaim "civil and religious liberty for all" but are despised by many Catholics as sectarian provocations — denies any responsibility for the violence.

# Ten dead in Nigeria clashes sparked by death of Abiola

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Police used tear gas yesterday to disperse demonstrators angry over the death of Nigeria's most prominent political prisoner, while the man's family refused to accept the official line that he died of a heart attack.

Authorities said at least 10 people were killed in overnight clashes between protesters and police in Lagos.

Nigeria's new military ruler, Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, was reported yesterday evening to have dissolved his cabinet. However, the Provisional Ruling Council, the core of the junta, was left intact.

Grief and anger swept across this West African nation yesterday — Africa's most populous — as news spread of the death of Moshood Abiola, a potent symbol of reform for Nigeria's poor masses.

In Lagos, thousands of youths and students staged tumultuous demonstrations along busy streets, setting fires on fire and throwing stones. Gunshots rang out in parts of the city, but it was unclear who was shooting.

Students in the southern university town of Ibadan also staged protests.

Abiola, who reportedly was about to be released from four years of imprisonment, became ill Tuesday during a meeting with members of a US delegation led by Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering.

"Chief Abiola started talking with Undersecretary Pickering when he started feeling uncomfortable," said Jim Callahan, a spokesman for the US Embassy in Nigeria. "He was clearly in distress." Before he began coughing and wheezing, Abiola had been drinking tea and chatting with Pickering, Callahan said in a telephone interview.

Abiola, who grew up poor and later amassed a fortune in industries including publishing, shipping and oil, was an unlikely hero for Nigeria's nascent democracy movement.

Once an ally of Nigeria's all-powerful military, Abiola fell out of favor after winning 1993 presidential elections, which were annulled by the military government. Gen. Sani Abacha came to power in a coup later that year, and when Abiola insisted on his claim to the top office, Abacha jailed him and convicted him of treason.

After becoming ill during Tuesday's meeting, the 60-year-old Abiola was rushed to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.



Moshood Abiola, Nigeria's most prominent political prisoner, who died in jail on Tuesday, is seen in this file photo during an election rally in 1993.

The government said he had died of a heart attack and promised a full autopsy.

The US State Department said there was no reason to suspect any foul play. Abiola's family had

repeatedly warned that his health had been failing after years in detention under harsh conditions,

but cast doubt on the official explanation of his death.

His daughter, Wuru, fighting back tears in a British Broadcasting Corp. TV interview, said "of all the conditions he had, heart was not one of them." Another daughter, Hafsat, said in an interview with CNN that the timing was suspicious. "It was too convenient," she said. "All of a sudden at the eve of his release, he dies."

The family said Abiola was to be buried late yesterday, but it was likely to be postponed until the autopsy could be performed.

Abiola's physician, Dr. Ore Falomo, said he was unable to participate in the autopsy and called for physicians from Britain and Canada to take part.

Meanwhile, a US-based human rights group said yesterday that Nigeria's military leadership was warned just weeks ago that Abiola was in dire need of treatment.

"Chief Abiola's American doctor, Dr. Mitchell Feinman, has concluded that his patient suffers from life-threatening conditions, which, if left untreated, could be fatal," said Dr. Charles Clements in a June 22 letter sent to Abubakar.

Abiola's death came on the same day Nigeria completed a 30-day official period of mourning for Abacha, who died of a heart attack last month following a five-year rule that left the oil-rich country impoverished and internationally scorned.

Sequestered for four years in a government guest house in Abuja — most of the country's roughly 250 political prisoners are detained under far more wretched conditions — Abiola was reportedly nearing freedom.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited last week, and announced that the new military government would release all its political prisoners, including Abiola. Pickering's delegation had come to Nigeria to meet with the military leadership to push that process along.

Annan said following his visit that Abiola had agreed to relinquish his claim to the presidency and cooperate with the military. The UN chief said Abiola appeared to be in good health.

In Washington on Tuesday, President Clinton said Pickering's delegation accompanied Abiola to the hospital after he collapsed, "and witnessed physicians at the State House clinic work to try to save Chief Abiola."



**Guilty of murder**  
Defendant Mikail Markhashev listens to a returned verdict of guilty for the murder of Ennis Cosby, the only son of Bill Cosby in a Santa Monica, California courtroom Tuesday. (AP)

## Astronomers: Dust ring around star looks like another solar system

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A ring of dust particles circling a nearby star looks remarkably like the belt of comets outside Pluto and Neptune, and researchers think it could mean there are other solar systems similar to ours.

Although there's no direct evidence yet of any planets in the system, astronomers using a telescope in Hawaii found a bright spot in the dusty ring around Epsilon Eridani, among the 10 closest stars to Earth.

The spot could be dust sucked into the gravitational field of a young planet, said lead researcher Jane Greaves, project scientist for the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope operated by Great Britain's Joint Astronomy Center in Hilo, Hawaii.

Another reason the dusty ring is so intriguing is that it's located at approximately the same distance from the star as the Kuiper Belt is from our sun. The Kuiper Belt contains about 70,000 large comets and millions of smaller ones.

Because there are so many parallels between the star system and our solar system, the findings may be opening a window on the early his-

tory of our sun and planets. "It's almost like having a time machine and seeing the solar system form," Greaves said.

Benjamin Zuckerman, a University of California, Los Angeles, professor of physics and astronomy, described the image as "a snapshot of what our solar system might have looked like four billion years ago."

Zuckerman, another member of the research team, said astronomers have found other systems that have planets, "but they don't look like our solar system."

Greaves presented the results last week for publication in *Astronomical Journal Letters*.

The system appears to be about where our 4.5 billion-year-old solar system was 600 million years into its existence, when it was heavily bombarded by comets and other debris, but life hadn't yet gained a foothold. At an estimated age of 500 million to one billion years, the system around Epsilon Eridani is probably too young for even primitive life to have developed, the researchers and outside experts agreed.

"But given a few billion years, who knows what could evolve?" said Martin Duncan, an astrophysicist at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, who was not involved in the research.

## Kohl allies: Foreigners should speak German

KLOSTER BANZ, Germany (Reuters) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Bavarian allies said yesterday that foreigners should be required to learn German before they settle in the country.

Kohl's three-party coalition of Christian Democrats, Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) and Free Democrats tightened the country's asylum laws last month, cutting welfare payments to asylum-seekers deemed to be abusing the system.

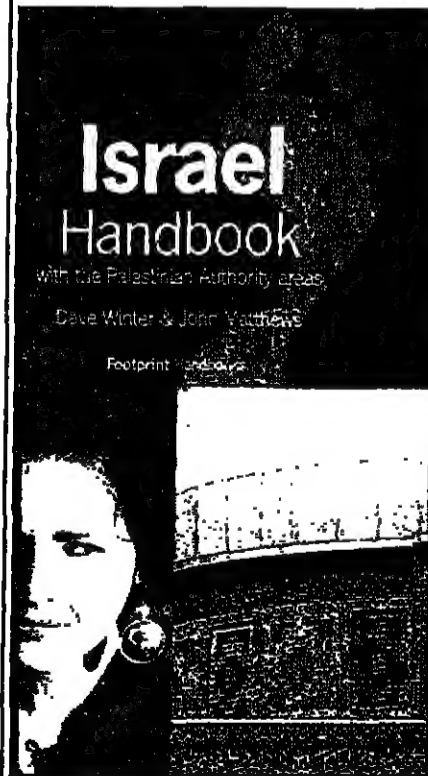
The move was widely condemned by human rights groups as electioneering before the September 27 general election, but the Bavarian CSU says it wants even more strictures on foreigners.

Michael Glos, CSU leader in the Bavarian state assembly, told 50 delegates at a party strategy meeting in the north Bavarian monastery of Kloster Banz that foreigners had a vital part to play in fostering integration.

"They must also be positive toward integration and that includes learning the German language and using it everywhere," Glos said at the meeting to discuss tighter asylum regulations.

Glos said that such measures would make a greater contribution to integration than allowing foreigners to have a German passport in addition to their original one.

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# Vulnerability of voice mail rings warning bells across corporate America

By DEVON SPURGEON

CINCINNATI — What began as an expose of Chiquita Brands International Inc. by a hometown newspaper has turned into a cautionary tale for corporate America on how a modern innovation — voice mail — can be stolen and misused just as easily as corporate documents and trade secrets.

On a Sunday morning in early May, Chiquita executives awoke to find what were alleged to be their own voice mail messages reprinted in the pages of the Cincinnati Enquirer.

In an eighteen-page pullout section headlined "Chiquita's Secrets Revealed," the Enquirer said it had obtained what it contended were internal voice mail messages from a company executive.

The messages were used to bolster allegations — denied by the company — that Chiquita secretly controls other banana companies, sprays dangerous pesticides on workers and villagers in Central America, has attempted to bribe Colombian officials and that its fruit-transport ships have smuggled

cocaine into Europe.

"Our business and my personal privacy were violated in the most extreme way," said Steven G. Warshaw, Chiquita's president and chief operating officer. "I mean my children leave me messages. I don't want the world to know their grades."

With 85-90 percent of all corporations using voice mail and 40-45% of all households employing the system, according to Privacy Times, the Chiquita case raises troubling and potentially costly questions about the security of any voice mail system.

"Voice mail can be a chink in any corporation's security armor. Every corporation should have a policy that prescribes what can and cannot be communicated by voice mail," said Beth Givens, director of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a nonprofit consumer information and advocacy program based in San Diego. "Voice mail must be a part of a corporation's security plan."

Chiquita alleges its voice mail system was cracked open by Enquirer reporter Michael Gallagher, who was later fired

by the newspaper over the incident. More than 2,000 voice mail messages, most of them from the legal department, were recorded; the company says some of the information obtained from the voice mail and printed in the articles should have been protected under attorney-client privilege.

The voice mail also anonymously surfaced at the Securities and Exchange Commission, which would not comment on whether it was investigating information about company practices in the tapes. Chiquita has filed a civil lawsuit against Gallagher, 40, alleging among other things defamation, trespass and violations of state and federal wiretapping laws.

He faces a criminal probe by the FBI and a local court-appointed special prosecutor. Chiquita officials allege Gallagher would submit questions to company attorneys and then listen to their voice mail as they discussed drafting answers to his questions.

Gallagher declined, through his lawyer, Patrick J. Hanley, to comment.

The Enquirer, owned by Gannett Co., agreed to publish

a front page apology three days in a row and pay Chiquita more than \$10 million. Other cases of voice mail hacking have occurred on a much smaller scale, usually centering on a former employee using the system to steal trade secrets.

In 1996, National Regulatory Services, a Lakeville, Conn., company that helps securities firms obtain licenses, discovered a former employee sneaking into its voice mail system to steal client leads and sabotage customer relationships.

Officials caught the employee after he called to express his condolences to another colleague after hearing via his voice mail snooping that her aunt had died. Chiquita officials refused to speculate on how the Enquirer reporter penetrated the system, which logs 12,500 messages each week.

Their voice mail system was designed by the nation's most popular voice-mail developer, Lucent Technology Inc. "The plain fact is that people can use the most diligent of securities measures and find they can be penetrated," Warshaw said.

He said the company has changed its procedures to enhance security but declined

to describe the actions. "The average hacker gets in because the people that have the voice mail system never change the default password," said Ed Shuck, owner of Visual Traffic, a consulting firm that advises corporations on how to protect themselves from telephone fraud. "These default passwords are actually posted on the Web by other hackers."

He advises corporations to protect themselves by requiring users to change their password every 30 days, deleting all voice mail boxes not assigned and making sure the voice mail access number does not have the main corporate prefix.

Chiquita employees were given a pass code with four digits. Security experts believe that voice mail codes should be at least six digits.

Chiquita said officials discovered the theft because its voice mail system records the phone numbers of incoming calls and because of tracks left as the hacker maneuvered around the voice mail system. Chiquita, in its lawsuit, alleges unauthorized entrances were made into the voice mail system as many as 13 times a day. (The Washington Post)



The price of nuclear war

A woman wearing a mask simulating radiation burns demonstrates outside NATO headquarters in Brussels yesterday. About 40 people, all members of an international delegation of the Nuclear Weapons Abolition Day Network, gathered to demand information about NATO's arms policy. Protesters say NATO continues to ignore the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the illegal status of nuclear weapons, and still relies on the nuclear deterrent and first use policy.

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# Thursday, the rabbis are very different

**RESPONSE OF RABBI MOSHE FEINSTEIN, VOLUME I: Care of the Critically Ill** by Moshe David Tendler. Hoboken, N.J. 213 pp. Price not stated.

**BIBLICAL LITERACY: The Most Important People, Events and Ideas of the Hebrew Bible** by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. New York, Morrow. 627 pp. \$25.

By Michael Widlanski

These two works are similar in their desire to translate into everyday language important principles of Jewish heritage, and both are written by rabbis, but of widely different backgrounds.

Rabbi Dr. Moshe Tendler is a renowned scholar in two fields: rabbinical law and medical ethics. He is a professor of biology at Yeshiva College and *rash yeshiva* at Yeshiva University's rabbinical seminary. He is also so self-effacing that in this book he appears almost entirely as the son-in-law of the late Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, one of the great rabbinical legal authorities of the last century. That is because this book is the first of several volumes of translation of and commentary on Feinstein's opus of responsa literature known as the *Igros Moshe*.

That may not sound like exciting reading, but Feinstein's analysis is both very penetrating and very modern. Indeed, it remains close to the soul of traditional Judaism even while discussing life-and-death matters such as whether and when to make a deliberate decision to kill one Siamese twin in order to save the other. It is fascinating to see how Feinstein gets into questions of abortion law and even the dilemma of whether one can trade one life for another, as in a hostage situation. The case of the twins was not merely an academic question, and the doctor who eventually executed Feinstein's ruling was none other than C. Everett Koop, who subsequently became the surgeon-general of the United States.

A sizable portion of the text comprises a biographical treatment of Feinstein by his son-in-law, as well as a parallel use of the Hebrew texts. The writing, however, is clear even if the tone of adulation sometimes gets a bit much for the average reader. The conclusion is that this book is not meant for the average reader, but for specialists interested in religious law and medical ethics.

THE BOOK by Joseph Telushkin is also not meant for the average reader. Rather, *Biblical Literacy* is meant for someone who has never seriously read the Bible in Hebrew or a significant commentary on it in either Hebrew or English. Telushkin's text is modern in tone, and it certainly is not modest. Telushkin is called "Rabbi Joseph Telushkin" on the cover and on the title page, as if he were part of his name from birth. He serves as the rabbi of the Synagogue of

Bible's ideology. The third part is a listing of the 613 commandments as they appear in the Pentateuch. But since the book is meant as an introduction or companion to the "Hebrew Bible," one would expect the author to be a bit more proficient in the language, especially since he flaunts the fact that he does not make common mistakes in translating Hebrew (e.g., "Thou shalt not kill," Telushkin says correctly, should really be "Thou shalt not murder").



Rabbi Moshe Feinstein

the Performing Arts in Los Angeles, even though he lives with his family in New York. Indeed, although the viewpoint is Modern Orthodox (Yeshiva of Flatbush), the writing has the air of a floating performance.

The first part of the book focuses on the narrative part of the Bible — people and events — in a chronological review of the 29 books from Genesis to Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah. The second part concentrates on "laws and ideas" — the

But Telushkin makes serious linguistic errors, as when he builds a firm commentary on the story of Cain and Abel based on a major mistranslation. Yes, Cain said "Am I my brother's keeper," but when confronted by God with the enormity of his deed, Cain responds: "Gadol — avoni me neso" — my sin is too great to bear. There are many commentaries on this verse, but as in most cases in this long book, the commentaries are not mentioned either in the body of the

text or in the notes. Rashi (who is mentioned five times) is hard on Cain, while Nachmanides (mentioned four times) says Cain finally admits his guilt. This is in line with the simple translation of the text that *avon* is sin or crime. Telushkin renders it as "punishment," and he therefore declares that Cain is not only a murderer but an incredibly arrogant one, too. But the assumption that Cain tried to cop a plea with God rather than admit the enormity of his guilt is based on a grave mistranslation of a basic term in Hebrew by a man who professes to be ministering to the biblically illiterate.

Periodically throughout the book the tone becomes so conversational, even colloquial, that one suspects that Rabbi Telushkin's analysis began as a sermon for his Los Angeles synagogue while being dictated into a tape recorder at 35,000 feet. Here, for example, are Telushkin's comments on Lot's attempts to deter the attack by the Sodomites on the two angels sent to Sodom to rescue him: "Lot steps outside, carefully closing the door behind him. 'I beg you, my friends, do not commit such a wrong,' he appeals to them, then he makes about the most vile offer recorded in the Bible: 'Look, I have two daughters who have not known a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you please.'"

Actually, there are other, more vile, offers in the Bible, as when Jethro offers to sacrifice the first person who walks out of his house (and ends up sacrificing his daughter), or when Nahash, the King of Ammon, suggests to the Israelites in the border settlement of Yavesh-Gilad that they cut off their right hands if they want to avoid an Ammonite attack.

Telushkin also has the very off-putting habit of almost never referring to sources for his analysis, when they come from Rashi or some other commentator, and he prefers to adopt their views as his own or to put them into the mouths of personal friends, former teachers and non-Jewish sources such as John Milton or Soren Kierkegaard. But name-dropping does not excuse source dropping. Too often one feels that Telushkin is not escorting us on a spiritual journey but on his own ego trip. The tone of the book is fine for a bar-mitzva boy or bat-mitzva girl who will not be exposed to the Bible in any other way. But be advised that if the boy or the girl (or their parents) have any background in biblical studies, the present may be viewed as an insult.

## Judaism and the natural world

**ECOLOGY & THE JEWISH SPIRIT: Where Nature and the Sacred Meet**, edited with introductions by Ellen Bernstein. Vermont, Jewish Lights Publishing. 256 pp. Price not stated.

By Ephraim Gerber

The modern ecology movement was born in passionate reaction to the excesses of consumerism, capitalism and hyper-individualism. Along the way environmentalists have been guilty of a few excesses of their own, both in action and in rhetoric. Not the least of these has been locating the ideological roots of this global crisis in the Judeo-Christian tradition, which in Genesis supposedly gives humankind the right to ride roughshod over all the earth's creatures.

This collection of nearly 40 brief essays redresses such an oversimplification. The tone is uniformly positive, however. Only one article undertakes "A Response to Environmentalist Critiques of Judaism." The remainder take a celebratory look at the Jewish texts from the perspective of the natural world: agriculture, rain, seasons, trees, wilderness. The heroes and heroines of this book are Shavuot, Sukkot, Tu B'Shvat and Shabbat.

The contributors are mainly Reform religious figures, writing from the heart about the generosity of the Jewish spirit toward the physical world, the interconnection between all things, and the spiritual loss we suffer when we move too far away from the earth. The reader will not find practical analyses of the pressing ecological problems here. Instead, there is an ancient rationale for what we now call a sustainable economy, as in the prohibition in Deuteronomy against cutting down or using wood from fruit trees, even in time of war.

The editor also contributes five essays which loosely chronicle her search for a meaningful connection with Judaism in the context of her driving passion for the environment. This book takes the position, sometimes with eloquence, that the environmental crisis is first a crisis of the spirit. As one contributor writes: "The earth is alive. Yet in a world which diminishes the value of the sacred, we have grown blind to this profound mystery."

One of the most interesting aspects of *Ecology & The Jewish Spirit* is that it asks us to absorb words like "alive" in a profoundly literal sense. The Jewish texts are read without the intellectual defense that they are poetical, or use figures of speech to convey an abstract meaning. Everett Gendler analyzes Psalm 148 (which "observant Jews recite...365 times a year") in this way. "The fact that earth and all living beings are bound by covenant to God implies that Judaism takes universal sentience for granted. All of creation must be alive with feeling."

However, the book stops well and firmly short of "Deep Ecology," the radical view which considers human beings to be almost the natural enemies of the ecosystem. The fact that all creation is "sentient" does not mean that everything is aware to the same degree. But the book does make the point that I will harm it a little less if I see the earth as something more than a tool.

The Israeli reader of *Ecology & The Jewish Spirit* may also find this book interesting for a reason the editor did not intend. Ancient Israel is a beloved "character" in this book, but modern Israel is conspicuous by its absence, or its neutral coloration. Israel appears to have stifled her in her quest for a Jewish environmentalism.

"One danger of contemporary Zionism is that it can reinforce the impression that there is only one holy land or, rather, that only one land is holy. For some Jews living outside of Israel, this attitude can translate into indifference toward their own local environments. A number of American Jews, for example, feel such overriding concern for Israel that they abandon any attempt at creating a relationship with the land of America. Ignoring nature in their own communities and with no day-to-day relationship with the soil of Israel, these Jews achieve no genuine connection to nature and thus no possibility of global environmental awareness and practice."

It is difficult to quantify whether Bernstein is right about American Zionists neglecting their native soil out of love for Israel's. But if her point is that we are all downwind and downstream from someone, and that all action in defense of the environment is praiseworthy, then the book deserves a reading.

**THE POTATO: How the Humble Spud Rescued the Western World** by Larry Zuckerman. Faber & Faber. 304 pp. \$22.95.

By Ben Neihart

I write from a cabin in the woods of New Hampshire. I'm not afraid of potatoes: still eat 'em, even though Nicholson Baker, in a 1994 short story called "Subsoil," made the knobby spud into a fiendish villain that bored its bristly tentacles through a man's skull, transforming a man into root. The story captured a dark patient aspect of the potato, gave it the same indomitable cunning that Sylvia Plath gave fungus in her poem "Mushrooms": "We shall," she wrote, "inherit the earth. Our foot's in the door."

Larry Zuckerman, a Seattle-based writer, knows a frightening great deal about potatoes, and I don't mean he knows how to cook them. I mean he knows how

## A potatocentric history

the darn thing sustained the European population boom and helped along the Industrial Revolution. In his new book, *The Potato: How the Humble Spud Rescued the Western World*, he's dead set on making you worship the species.

He starts right off by telling us how much the early 17th-century Europeans, who first encountered the potato in Peru, hated it. It "had thick, slightly hairy stems" and "the main root branched into a whitish network to which long, thick fibers were attached." Sure, botanists — those two aesthetes — were aroused by an obscene, furtive root, but your everyday European was grossed out. They knew that "every other edible plant reproduced by means of seeds, not grotesque, misshapen tubers. Surely, the devil crafted that magic." Europeans were comically

superstitious about their food, and they liked to eat a whole lot of fatty meat, anyway. "They thought that lettuce was immoral, and when they said greens they usually meant the herbs you used to season a rump roast. The English were afraid to dig for the potato because its roots were so deep; spuds were 'in a different realm — an unearthly one.' To the French, bread-lovers, potatoes were unfashionable, a food for old women and housewives and grandmothers.

Americans embraced the spud because it was part of their hardy, easy comports; because the Irish, the Scots, and the Scandinavians who went to North America liked them; and because "insidious, coarseness, baseness, filth, and so forth," the potato's "faults," didn't really bother them. Bother them? Later in the

book, the author's exhaustive, fine research pays off big with a concise, compelling explanation of the 19th-century Irish Potato Famine. We learn about cholera, blight and potato bigotry. Nutrition. Potatoes as breakfast food. The origin of the potato chip. The difference between American and French table habits. Class issues and the cost of bread. But frankly, I suspect Zuckerman's motives. At first I feared that the reason he took the potato so seriously was that he had nothing better to do. But the more I read, the more afraid I became. There is something just plain terrifying about a potatocentric history of Western civilization.

Why, I wondered, is Zuckerman's argument so urgent? Why is he such a potato propagandist? What has the potato promised him? It is dark here in the New Hampshire woods. Are those roots I hear scraping at my window?

(The Baltimore Sun)

## STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. *Materese Countdown* by Robert Ludlum. HarperCollins, Bantam.
2. *The Winner* by David Baldacci. Warner, Pocket.
3. *Survival of the Fittest* by Jonathan Kellerman. Bantam, Warner.
4. *Sisterhood* by Colin Forbes. Pan.
5. *Second Love* by Judith Gould. Warner.
6. *Cat & Mouse* by James Patterson. Headline, Warner.
7. *To Love, Honour & Betray* by Penny Jordan. Mira.
8. *The Mark of Cain* by Ram Oren. Keshet.
9. *Best Laid Plans* by Sidney Sheldon. Warner, HarperCollins.
10. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. Touchstone.

Also available from the Jerusalem Post Book Club, Tel: 02-537-8377. Fax: 02-537-8372, E-mail: orders@jpost.co.il

## BOOK BYTES

Since Audrey Howard started writing around age 50, she has published two novels a year. At the moment she is three books ahead of her publisher. Little wonder, then, that when asked about *Not a Bird Will Sing* (Hodder), her next historical saga to be published, she says, "Is that the one about Poppy? I wrote it two years ago. Isn't it awful: I can't remember the names of my characters."

Howard, whose prolific writings are reminiscent of the late Catherine Cookson's and Josephine Cox's books, knows what she is talking about when she writes about crises and heartbreaks. "She went through a divorce, has beaten breast cancer, and seen her four-year-old son die in a car crash."

After working as a civil servant most of her life, she sat down and wrote a book at the "outlandish" suggestion of a friend. She sent the manuscript to a competition, and though it didn't win, one of the judges, a literary agent, felt the work was publishable with some changes.

Historical accuracy is important to Howard, and she can spend "days and days" looking at bits of background information — like the description of a knitting frame or horse-drawn trams in mid-19th century Manchester. She also puts sex in her novels, at least one scene per book, "to let people know how much the hero and heroine love each other." She wrote in long hand until recently, when she acquired a computer. She claims never to have any problems filling the blank screen, saying, "Writing is my life."

WHO SAYS Communism is dead? Verso's "modern" edition of *The Communist Manifesto* is being published this year to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the first appearance of Marx and Engels' work. In keeping with the '90s, the volume is geared to

the capitalist classes with a ribbon marker and a trendy postmodern red flag cover design. And in a marketing campaign guaranteed to turn all card-carrying party members over in their graves, the book is being displayed in shop windows alongside designer, hand-painted Marx silk ties.

THE IDEA of itinerant booksellers may conjure up thoughts of a hundred years ago, a horse and cart, and Mendele Mocher Sforim. Today, it's a little different. Doug Oliver does his wholesale peripatetic bookselling in the Pacific Northwest from a customized recreational vehicle, in other words a mobile home with shelves. The Six Pillars Mobile Book Distribution Company specializes in New Age, metaphysical, and alternative healing books. In an added wrinkle, publishers and bookstores can buy advertising on the outside, like on city buses. Oliver says, "There's a big difference between looking at a catalogue and actually getting to see a book."

PROF. DR. Peter Gradenwitz of Tel Aviv believes he's chalked up a first in Sino-Israeli relations. His biography, *Leonard Bernstein — Infinite Variety of a Musician*, based on the late maestro's personal talks and recordings, is probably the first book by an Israeli musicologist to be translated into Chinese by Liaoning Publishers. Previously, versions have appeared in English, Spanish, German and Japanese. The author has written a special preface for the Chinese edition.

HERE'S a preview of the new millennium: "On Venus, Have We Got a Rabbi?" by William Tenn. That's just one story in *Wandering Stars* (Jewish Lights), an anthology of Jewish fantasy and science fiction.

David Brauner

## The New York Times BESTSELLERS

### HARDCOVER Fiction

1. *The Kite and I* by Danielle Steel (Delacorte \$17.95). A woman believes she has found Mr. Right, a hi-tech expert, then is amazed to meet his clone.
2. *I Know This Much Is True* by Wally Lamb (Regan Books/HarperCollins \$27.50). A troubled man must care for his schizophrenic identical twin brother and face the nightmares of their family.
3. *Summer Sisters* by Judy Blume (Delacorte \$21.95). Two young women from very different backgrounds come of age together on Martha's Vineyard.
4. *Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding (Viking \$22.95). A look at the life of a thirtysomething female.
5. *Unpeackable* by Sandra Brown (Warner \$25). A psychotic killer, returning to his Texas hometown to wreak vengeance, uses a troubled widow as his pawn.
6. *A Widow for One Year* by John Irving (Random House \$27.95). A look at the complex emotional life of a writer and single mother.
7. *The Street Lawyer* by John Grisham (Doubleday \$27.95). A young lawyer comes to terms with himself after discovering his prestigious firm's dirty secret.
8. *The Eleventh Commandment* by Jeffrey Archer (HarperCollins \$26). An assassin about to retire discovers he must contend with a new enemy.
9. *The Last Full Measure* by Jeff Shaara (Ballantine \$25.95). The final years of the Civil War, seen through the eyes of its participants: the concluding volume of a trilogy.
10. *Message in a Bottle* by Nicholas Sparks (Warner \$20). After finding a seashore bottle containing an enigmatic letter, a divorced woman encounters love.

### HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. *A Pirate Looks at Fifty* by Jimmy Buffett (Random House \$24.95). While traveling from Florida Keys to the Amazon, the singer-songwriter reflects on his half-century of life.
2. *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom (Doubleday \$19.95). A sportswriter tells of his weekly visits to his old college mentor, who was near death's door.
3. *A Monk Swimming* by Malachy McCourt (Hyperion \$23.95). The writer and actor (and brother of Frank McCourt) recalls his life in America and Ireland.
4. *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson (Broadway \$25). A journalist finds beauty and humor while hiking the Appalachian trail.
5. *Titan* by Ron Chernow (Random House \$30). The life of John D. Rockefeller Sr.
6. *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters* by Cokie Roberts (Morrow \$19.95). The television news anchor's personal reflections on women in politics and business and as mothers, wives, sisters and friends.
7. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt (Scribner \$24). An Irish-American writer recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
8. *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea* by Gary Kinder (Atlantic Monthly \$27.50). An account of the wreck of a side-wheeler off the Carolina coast in 1857 and the efforts of a group to recover its treasure in 1989.
9. *The Gifts of the Jews* by Thomas Cahill (Vintage/Doubleday \$23.50). What Western civilization owes an ancient tribe.
10. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko (Longstreet \$22). An analysis of the lives of wealthy Americans discloses that they have seven characteristics in common.

### PAPERBACK Fiction

1. *Unnatural Exposure* by Patricia Cornwell (Berkley \$7.99). Dr. Kay Scarpetta contends with a killer who uses a smallpox-like virus and cyber-space tricks.
2. *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells (Harper Perennial \$13.50). Three generations of Southern women.
3. *The Angel of Darkness* by Caleb Carr (Ballantine \$7.99). The pursuit of the kidnaper of a Spanish diplomat's child in 1897 Manhattan.
4. *Orphans: Butterfly and Crystal* by V.C. Andrews (Pocket \$3.99). A troubled orphan is adopted by a couple who hope she will become a ballerina.
5. *Fat Tuesday* by Sandra Brown (Warner Vision \$7.99). A cop and a sinister attorney's wife go on a tear in New Orleans during Mardi Gras.
6. *The Horse Whisperer* by Nicholas Evans (Dell \$7.50). A woman seeks solace for her daughter and their horse from a wrangler.
7. *She's Come Undone* by Wally Lamb (Pocket \$7.99). A woman's harrowing progress from youth to middle-age.
8. *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy (Harper Perennial \$13). Death and secrets haunt a once-prosperous family in India.
9. *Preland You Don't See Her* by Mary Higgins Clark (Pocket \$7.99). A chance witness to a murder must live anonymously to save her life.
10. *Breath, Eyes, Memory* by Edwidge Danticat (Vintage \$11). The experiences of a girl coming of age in New York and Haiti.

### PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger (Harper Paperbacks \$6.99). The story of the northeast of 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.
2. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer (Anchor/Doubleday \$7.99). A journalist's account of his ascent on Mt. Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
3. *Under the Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes (Broadway \$13). A celebration of life in the Italian countryside by an American poet.
4. *Brain Droppings* by George Carlin (Hyperion \$10.95). Comments on life by the stand-up comedian.
5. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95). A young man's obsession with the wilderness has a tragic end in Alaska.
6. *Wait Till Next Year* by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Touchstone/\$8.95). Recollections of a '60s girlhood on Long Island, in the orbit of the Brooklyn Dodgers.
7. *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson (Vintage \$11). The gonzo journalist's 1971 account of a drug-addled road trip.
8. *The Color of Water* by James McBride (Riverhead \$12). A black writer and musician recalls growing up with his white mother in a Brooklyn housing project.
9. *Personal History* by Katharine Graham (Vintage \$15). The autobiography of the former publisher of *The Washington Post*.
10. *A Child Called "It"* by Dave Pelzer (Warner Communications \$9.95). The autobiography of a man who survived his mother's abuse.

### PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff...and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson (Hyperion \$8.95). How to enjoy life more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins (Avon \$6.50). Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
3. *The Beanie Baby Handbook 1998* by Las Fox and Sue Fox (West Highland \$6.95). A guide.
4. *Protein Power* by Michael R. Eades and Mary Dan Eades (Bantam \$6.50). Two physicians offer a protein-rich, low-carbohydrate plan for losing weight.

### HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. *Sugar Busters* by H. Leighton Steward et al. (Ballantine \$22). A diet designed for losing weight, increasing energy and combating disease.
2. *The 9 Steps to Financial Freedom* by Suze Orman (Crown \$23). Ways to manage your money now and in the future.
3. *Marilu Henner's Total Health Makeover* by Marilu Henner with Laura Morton (Regan Books/HarperCollins \$24). Promoting fitness and vitality.
4. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach (Warner \$21). Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves.

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## A temporary defeat

The defeat yesterday of Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's bill to almost eliminate the draft exemption for yeshiva students was unfortunate, if expected. Unfortunately, not because it was an ideal solution, but because its passage would have increased the pressure for a solution. The government should not act as if the defeat of the bill lessens the urgency for the ballooning yeshiva exemption to be addressed.

If there was a surprise in the Knesset debate on Barak's bill, it was that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai responded for the government. Barak and others made much hay of this fact, feigning surprise that the defense minister could "look in the eyes" of serving soldiers and argue that haredim should be exempt from military service. Mordechai's main argument against the bill, which was defeated 53-45, was that drafting haredim would not enhance Israel's security. Barak responded that this is not primarily an issue of what is good for the military, but what is right for society. Though this issue is laced with a heavy dose of politics and demagoguery, Barak's arguments were more on target than Mordechai's.

Finding appropriate roles for young haredim in the military could well cost more than it benefits the IDF as an institution. But the IDF, even more than the armies of most countries, has always served a social as well as a security function. In fact, it is the power of the military as a social integrator that concerns the haredi community most. Though the haredim act as if losing time for Torah study is the issue, the real fear is of losing haredim to the secular world. This haredi concern, even if it is not usually admitted to by the haredim themselves, should not be dismissed by the secular majority. The impulse to overly homogenize society is not particularly democratic, and one which other minorities - Yemenite immigrants in the 1950s, for example - have suffered from in the past.

The haredim have a right to preserve their way of life, as foreign as it is to most Israelis. But the haredi desire to cut themselves off from society at large does not extend to the government's budget or the political system, from which it works hard to extract maximum benefit. Even if the haredi community did not accept a shekel of government support, it is still benefiting from the sacrifice of lives and time spent defending the nation in which they live. The haredi claim that they are defending the nation through Torah

study - however sincere it may be within the haredi world view - only adds insult to injury, especially since many haredim omit the prayer for the welfare of the state.

The resentment that has built up toward haredim among religious and secular alike over their draft exemptions is legitimate, and has become the core of perhaps the most serious rift in Israeli society. The haredim have an interest in reducing this resentment, which could express itself in unpredictable ways within the Knesset. But aside from political self-preservation, the haredim have a more direct reason to seek a change in the current situation. The draft exemption for yeshiva students has caused tremendous distortions within haredi society itself. Thousands of "students" remain nominally within the yeshiva system only to avoid the draft, and for the same reason are lost to the work force. The result has been a worsening of the already difficult economic situation within the haredi world, and numerous social problems, including crime. It is no coincidence that Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman proposed a national service program that would enable more young haredim to enter the work force and save the government money.

The ironic fact is that the haredi world needs an alternative to the draft exemption much more than the IDF. Already, quiet negotiations have been conducted between opposing Knesset members, seeking a formula that will allow the haredim to contribute to the state without violating their way of life. Legislation is a blunt stick with which to accomplish this goal, and could create more conflict than it diffuses if pushed to a conclusion. But given that this problem has simmered for 50 years without a solution, legislation is an appropriate threat to ensure that negotiations produce something, and to hold in reserve if negotiations fail.

In this respect, it is disappointing that Yisrael Ba'aliya, which voted for the conversion bill even though it preferred a non-legal solution, abstained rather than follow the same logic in this case. The Third Way, by contrast, did the right thing by, for the first time, voting with the opposition on an important piece of legislation. The obvious political motivations behind the Barak bill do not detract from its contribution. Even in defeat, it raised the issue to a new level, and one that should be closer to a negotiated solution.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### DISCIPLINE, NOT WINDOW BARS

Sir, - My heart goes out to the family of Amelia Cohen, and I feel the pain of their loss. However, I am convinced that their blame is misplaced.

I observed a number of schools over the past weeks, in various towns and cities along the coastal plain, and have seen only one with bars on the upper windows.

Bars on the lower windows are for protection against break-ins from balls and against break-ins. Bars on individual windows on upper floors are for rooms containing valuable equipment, not to stop children leaning out.

We live on the third floor of a building on pillars, making our window ledges some 10 meters above the ground. When our children

were small, we were, as responsible parents, concerned about the risk of their falling out, and we installed bars on the window to their room.

We soon found a new phenomenon - being supremely safe from falling, they had taken to sitting on the window ledge and leaning against the bars. We quickly realized that if we allowed this practice to continue, we were putting them at greater risk, for they would do the same thing at other windows where there were no bars.

We therefore removed the bars, and relied on the older, more trusted method of ensuring their safety - education and discipline, teaching them very firmly not to sit on the window ledge, or climb on

anything in order to lean out of the window.

In the case of Amelia, more supervision and discipline in the school itself would have stopped the dangerous habits and stupid game which led to her death. The fact that another child was shown to have done the same thing even after Amelia's fall points an accusing finger at the staff of the school and the lack of discipline there.

Certainly some are to blame for Amelia's death, but please place the blame in the right arena - bars on the windows only make a prison, they do not educate.

EDITH DINAR

Bat Yam.

### FOOLISH OPTIMISTS

Sir, - At the memorial service last weekend for those killed in the Apropo cafe bombing, President Ezer Weizman said, "I believe the will [for peace] exists on the other [Arab] side."

I would like one indication of the truth of this statement. Can anyone explain the mind-bending necessary for leftists to read about

Arafat's speeches praising suicide bombers and vowing to persist in "armed revolution until all of Palestine [Israel] is liberated" and hear in these words cause for hope?

These UFOs (Unrealistically Foolish Optimists) are like the fatuous optimists in the 1930s who tried to reassure others that Hitler's speeches were nothing to

be alarmed about.

This "bridge" to peace, which the contractors of Oslo have assured us is safe, is as sturdy as the Maccabiah bridge, and doomed to the same fate.

MIRIAM ADAHAN

Jerusalem.

### ACT QUICKLY

Sir, - In full agreement with Yosef Abramowitz's letter "Shooting the messenger" (July 3), the urgency to act quickly and save Ethiopian Jews is a priority!

Without pointing fingers regarding the past, let's act immediately and bring this very sincere and committed people out of a life-threatening situation.

After spending an enlightening

three weeks in Addis Ababa last September, and during my last six years working with the Ethiopian immigrants, I can only find words of praise for this refined and gentle people.

Their strong commitment and dedication to Judaism is unquestionable. Their desire to excel has proven itself in the more than 500 beautiful young immigrants

enrolled in our best yeshivot and ulpanot throughout Israel.

Given the chance, we will be blessed by the Ethiopian aliya, and it is our responsibility to act quickly to save these souls. I urge our government of Israel to act immediately. Time is of the essence.

RABBI MICHA PELED

Moshav Netiv Hashayara.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On July 9, 1933, The Palestine Post reported on the enactment by the mandatory government of the Cooperative Societies Ordinance and the publication of the Cooperative Societies Bill in order to cope with the gigantic growth in the number and complexity of such institutions.

50 years ago: On July 9, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that the US delegate, Philip Jessup, warned at the emergency meeting of UN Security Council that his country would request sanctions against the Arab states if they rejected the mediator's truce plan and resumed war against Israel.

The Jerusalem Post reported that the foreign minister Abba Eban had told the cabinet that there was no point in Israel continuing to exchange public statements with president Bourguiba of Tunisia who had publicly called premier Golda Meir a liar and had compared Israel to the Nazis.

Alexander Zvielli



## Broken promises

ESTHER WACHSMAN

For many Israelis, the word "reciprocity" is at best another clichéd slogan; at worst, an excuse not to continue with our retreat as part of the peace process. For us, the bereaved parents, reciprocity means the Palestinian Authority handing over to Israel the Palestinian murderers of Israelis.

In a recent newspaper article, Aryeh Bachrach - father of the late Ohad, who was killed by terrorists in Wadi Kelt - stated that President Ezer Weizman had "misled" him and other bereaved families.

Bachrach quoted the president as having promised to raise the issue of the extradition of terrorist murderers with Egyptian President Mubarak, and he accused Weizman of not having done so.

Bachrach went on to say that these murderers are subsequently drafted into the ranks of the PA security forces, and have the potential capability of carrying out further attacks, as was the case with the murderer of David Boim, who later carried out the suicide bombing in Jerusalem's pedestrian mall.

If Israel had demanded his extradition, that tragic bloodshed could have been prevented. Bachrach expressed the hope that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would not give in on his demand for reciprocity, and the handing over murderers of Israeli citizens.

I too join Aryeh Bachrach in his wish, and I too am the bearer of grandiose promises which were broken.

The first person who "misled" me, in the words of Bachrach, was the president of the US, Bill Clinton. We met President Clinton about a year after my son's murder, at his graveside on

Mount Herzl. At that meeting, along with the president, were then-premier Shimon Peres, and the US ambassador Martin Indyk, now under-secretary of state.

On a rainy day, under huge black umbrellas, Clinton placed a stone, which he had brought with him from the White House, on

**President Clinton promised the very continuation of the peace process was contingent on the arrest of the mastermind behind our son's murder**

Nachshon's grave, and assured us that the arrest and extradition of Mohammed Dief, mastermind of our son's kidnapping and murder, was a top American priority.

He went on to tell my husband and myself that indeed, the very continuation of the peace process was contingent on Dief's apprehension and arrest.

Peres nodded in agreement, and we were moved by their determination, and we believed them. About six months later, my husband met with a very senior figure in the PA in Gaza, who informed him that Mohammed Dief was free in Gaza, and that he - this senior figure - could arrest him at any time, but Chairman Arafat would not allow it.

I flew to the White House, and transmitted that information to Anthony Lake, who was then the national security advisor. He

promised to look into it.

A week later, Lake called me at home in Jerusalem, and said that the Palestinian minister in Gaza had denied the entire conversation with my husband and that Dief was not in Gaza - this after the translator who was present at that meeting had been jailed and tortured. And so, Mohammed Dief is still free, and his subordinates (according to the Israeli press) are serving in senior positions in the PA.

The American president, who made that solemn promise to us at our son's grave, is pressuring Israel to go forward with the peace process without reciprocity in the form of extradition, and our prime minister is portrayed as the one who breaks promises.

Not long ago, I received a letter from a number of senators who wrote me they had raised the issue of Mohammed Dief with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who responded that she was not familiar with the case at all!

I immediately contacted Martin Indyk, her under-secretary who was present when the president made his promise, and got no satisfactory answer, beyond the mundane reply that the US condemns terror, and was doing its utmost to apprehend known terrorists.

Thus, was I "misled" by the world's top leaders. My conclusion is that it is very easy to make promises in moments of emotional vulnerability, when facing bereaved parents at the fresh grave of their son, yet fulfilling those promises is another issue altogether.

President Clinton and prime minister Peres broke their promise to me, and so my dear Mr. Bachrach, why are you surprised at President Weizman's breach of his promise to you? The name of the game is politics.

## The View From the East

DAOUD KUTTAB

## Apartheid roads

The standoff that took place on the coastal road in Gaza between Israelis and Palestinians last week didn't surprise me.

Freedom of movement - or the lack thereof - is perhaps the single most important day-to-day problem that faces Palestinians. Roads are perhaps the most clear area in which discrimination between Israelis and Palestinians is obvious, and I am not talking just about the quality of the roads.

The restriction of Palestinians' movements covers many areas. Palestinians are not free to travel between Gaza and the West Bank without a special permit. Every time a Palestinian needs to fly from Ben-Gurion Airport, he needs a special permit which he can get only if he shows Israeli officials an airline ticket and his valid Palestinian passport. Businessmen can't buy their tickets at the airport and can't travel on Jewish holidays, unless they obtain the special permit in advance.

Driving your own car is also a problem for Palestinians, even if you have a permit. Palestinian journalists, including television crews, who cover press conferences of the Israeli prime minister can't drive their own cars into Jerusalem or Israel.

They have to lug their camera equipment from their own cars, which can only reach the borders of Israel and Jerusalem, hire cars with Israeli license plates and continue their journeys that way, which is both troublesome and costly. Businessmen, doctors and engineers who need to reach East Jerusalem face the same problem. Getting in and out of Gaza is impossible these days with your

own car.

Palestinians, including those who are residents or even citizens of Israel, are not allowed to travel into Gaza. They must park their cars a few kilometers away from the Erez checkpoint, walk to the crossing terminal and walk another kilometer or two before finding a taxi.

Foreigners, with the exception

**Palestinians are not free to travel between Gaza and the West Bank without a special permit. Driving your own car is also a problem for Palestinians, even if you have a permit**

of the UN staff and diplomats, also can't drive into Gaza, although no such restriction applies to the West Bank.

These restrictions don't apply to Israeli Jews. Jewish settlers are allowed free access in and out of Palestinian areas without any permits.

WHAT is amazing is that Israeli officials don't seem to see the injustice and discrimination in this policy. We will open the coastal road only when we decide to do so, the Israeli prime minister said last week after the standoff near Gush Katif.

Furthermore, Mr. Netanyahu, the champion of illegal settlements and bypass apartheid roads, said that Israel will not tolerate

Palestinians making facts on the ground using force!!

In the West Bank, the situation is no better. Take the tunnel built on the land of Palestinians in Beit Jalla. The tunnel, which connects the Gush Etzion settlements with west Jerusalem, and which is said to have cost in excess of \$20 million, is off-limits to Palestinians - including those whose land was confiscated to make way for the highway.

Palestinians from Beit Jalla, Bethlehem and the entire area must suffer through a long, narrow and dangerous route commonly called the Valley of Fire Road. Each time I drive on that road, I quote the twenty-third psalm, praying for safety in the valley of the shadow of death.

A Palestinian who understands the restrictions in movement and decides to stay put is not allowed to do so: Raed Hilo, a colleague and friend from Gaza who has been working in the West Bank with a valid permit for a couple of years, must return to Gaza once a month to renew his permit. This week he decided to change his address to Ramallah.

Knowing that Gaza and the West Bank are one territorial unit, according to the Oslo Agreement, he went to the Palestinian Authority Interior Ministry armed with his rent contract and papers from his West Bank employer, asking that his address be changed from Gaza to Ramallah.

The Palestinians couldn't accept his request. "We have dozens of similar applications pending for years, and the Israelis have not approved them," he was told. "We can't take your request until the Israelis agree to process change of address applications."

## The national sport

HELEN SCHARY MOTON

Many countries espouse dangerous national sports: ice hockey in Canada, rugby in Britain, wrestling in Japan. But Israel has picked the most perilous pastime of all. Here, the national sport is negligence.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" - if there is a Hebrew equivalent for the saying, I can't find it. A cavalier attitude towards precautions has traditionally been a point of Israeli pride.

It was regarded as being a dandy, a coward, a *galant*, to worry about a little thing like safety. The more risks you took, the better. In Israel bravery was valued above all, even in the name of nothing.

The collapsed bridge at the Maccabiah. The death plunge of the electricity workers in Ashdod. Children suffocated in a Nazareth water tank. The caved-in gym in Beersheba. Repeated drownings. Military accidents.

Lurid headlines imply an epidemic of calamities. Endemic would seem more accurate a term.

"They won't install bars until child falls out" - a parent protested bitterly after yet another family meeting spent begging the authorities. That was one week before nine year old Amelia plummeted to her death out of her schoolroom window. It took that little girl lying in a coma before the Ministry of Education would relent.

Earlier this season, at a bustling municipal country club, children in a swim class protested that the water burned their throats and interfered with their breathing. Their complaints were ignored, and they were required to swim for the duration of the two-hour class.

When finally checked, the level of chemicals in the water measured so dangerously high that the pool was immediately evacuated. In an unrelated incident, a child was hospitalized in intensive care after being exposed to excess chemicals in a public pool, and the papers have been filled with

**The public must come to view prudence as a virtue**

accounts of children drowning in swimming pools since the start of summer vacation.

PUBLIC authorities have long known about the peril inherent in congested intersections that lack traffic lights and traffic police. These mad crossroads mimic bumper cars at the amusement park.

Endless caravans of automobiles push forward, weaving, dodging, cutting in. Cars sneak into the middle divide, knowing that to pause until the traffic clears in both directions is like waiting for Godot.

I often wonder how paratroopers get up the guts to step out into space from the open hatch of the plane. They probably underwent early childhood training on the white lines of pedestrian crossings.

If approached, the authorities nod their heads sagaciously and promise imminent installation of a traffic light. Then laziness and the status quo take over. Just like with the bars on Amelia's classroom window, traffic lights often appear only in the wake of horrific accidents, unintended monuments to sacrificed lives.

Before the 1980s, seat belts were not supplied in the back seats of new automobiles. When hesitantly inquired whether night special-order seat belts for my two small children, the car dealer rolled his eyes. "This is not America, lady," he scoffed.

Until very recently if you saw a youngster wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle, you knew he must be the child of foreign diplomats or of immigrants right off the boat. An Israeli child in a helmet would never live down the derision of his schoolyard buddies.

Today, of course, hardly a child rides without protective headgear. And seat belts are not only standard equipment in the back seat of cars, they are mandatory.

Little by little, things are looking up, due in part to the growing willingness of the courts to compensate for the infliction of negligent bodily injury. But the pace is still painfully - and tragically - slow. Above all, the population must come to view prudence as a virtue, not a mark of cowardice.

Now that the recent spate of horrific accidents has highlighted the long-standing reality, perhaps public consciousness can be galvanized at last. Ordinary citizens need not content themselves with crossing their fingers or relying on their horoscope.

Safety ought to be a preventive policy decision, not an ex post facto requirement over the limp bodies of yet another victim.



# Weekender

## The best years of their lives

Ten of Hollywood's finest films were made in 1939. But which other years stand out in American movie history?

By CHRIS KALTENBACH

**A**s the American Film Institute's top-100 list showed, there's plenty of competition when it comes to naming the greatest American movies.

But when it comes to the greatest year for American films, there's no disputing the champion: 1939 was such a banner year for Hollywood.

Maybe 1942, which besides *Casablanca* also saw the release of *Bambi*, *The Magnificent Ambersons*, *To Be Or Not to Be*, *The Pride of the Yankees* and *Sullivan's Travels*?

Or 1967, with such favorites as *The Graduate*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *In Cold Blood* and *Two for the Road*?

There's no runaway winner for this summer-up trophy. But in the interest of spirited debate, here are a few candidates worthy of consideration.

### 1925 Highlights

*Ben-Hur*, the film that launched new-audio-on-the-film MGM as a force to be reckoned with, still stands as one of cinema's most exciting epics — the chariot race between Ramon Novarro's Ben-Hur and Francis X. Bushman's Messala is every bit as riveting as its sound-film counterpart.

*The Gold Rush*, another in an amazing run of classics from Charles Chaplin, has the little tramp seeking fame and fortune in the Klondike — where, among other disappointments, he has to eat cooked boot for dinner.

*The Phantom of the Opera* has a masquerading scene that still qualifies as one of the movies' most frightening moments.

*Tumbleweeds* is William S. Hart's swan song to the Old West — a lovely chronicle. And *King Vidor's World War I* masterpiece, *The Big Parade*.

Other films of note: *The Eagle*, perhaps Rudolph Valentino's best effort; *The Merry Widow*, from famed director Erich von Stroheim; *The Unchastened*, the final film of silent-screen legend Theda Bara; *The Street*, with Greta Garbo, directed by G.W. Pabst; *Little Annie Rooney*, with Mary Pickford; Harold Lloyd's *The Freshman*; and Buster Keaton's *Seven Chances*.

Reason it's overlooked: Who remembers silent films? Besides, there were no Academy Awards in

1925, leaving historians with no easy way to measure film greatness.

### 1940 Highlights

*The Grapes of Wrath*, director John Ford's flawless adaptation of John Steinbeck's novel, with Henry Fonda in the role of his career; *His Girl Friday*, maybe the best film about reporters — and certainly the funniest — ever; *Rebecca*, the film that brought Alfred Hitchcock to Hollywood and made a star of Joan Fontaine; *Fantasia* and *Pinocchio*, an unprecedented double triumph for Walt Disney; *The Philadelphia Story*, one of the great screwball comedies (with a cast including Katharine Hepburn, James Stewart and Cary Grant, how could it not be?); and Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*, an early and devastating attack on Hitler.

Other films of note: W.C. Fields in *The Bank Dick*; Raymond Massey's dignified, Oscar-nominated performance in *Abe Lincoln in Illinois*; *The Sea Hawk*, with Errol Flynn (under the direction of Warner Bros. workhorse Michael Curtiz) as a dashing British sea captain out to cripple the Spanish;

*The Great McGinty*, the first in a long run of hilarious films from director Preston Sturges; *One Million B.C.*, from director Hal Roach, featuring some wonderful special effects; and MGM's *Pride and Prejudice*, with a powerhouse cast that includes Greer Garson, Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud, May-Elizabeth Maestri, Q. Sullivan, Ann Rutherford and Edmund Gwenn. Reason it's overlooked: If you had 1939 for a neighbor, you'd be overlooked, too.

### 1962 Highlights

*David Lean's Lawrence of Arabia*, unquestionably one of the greats; the still-moving *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a remarkably evocative look at growing up in the south, with a resonant performance from Gregory Peck; *Bette Davis and Joan Crawford* battling each other tooth and claw in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*; *The Manchurian Candidate*, a relentlessly tense thriller with what may be Frank Sinatra's best screen performance; an all-star cast in the overblown, but still honorable *The Longest Day*, Robert Preston's magnificent performance in the relentlessly clever *The Music Man*; and director John Ford's spin on the mythology of the Old West, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*.

Other films of note: *Days of Wine and Roses*, with Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick; *The Miracle Worker*, with Oscar-winning performances from Patti Duke and Anne Bancroft; director Sidney Lumet's star-studded adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*; *Birdman of Alcatraz*, with a winning performance from Burt Lancaster; director Sam Peckinpah's *Ride, the High Country*. Reason it's overlooked: It isn't.



The romance of the movies: In 1939 Clark Gable fell for Vivien Leigh in 'Gone With The Wind' (above), while Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas starred in 'Ninotchka'.



It's probably the leading candidate for best year runner-up.

### 1976 Highlights

*All the President's Men*, with Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman chasing after Nixon and the truth, influenced an entire generation of journalists and would-be journalists; *Network*, a film that proved as prophetic as it was entertaining (it was also wonderfully acted, winning three of the four acting Oscars); *The Front*, director Martin Ritt's tribute to the artists whose lives and careers were ruined by the blacklist; *Taxi Driver*, featuring the incomparable team of

Scorsese and De Niro (not to mention a young Jodie Foster); the underrated *Robin and Marian*, with Sean Connery as an aging Robin Hood and Audrey Hepburn as his fair maid; John Wayne's tear-jerking goodbye to films in *The Shootist*.

Other films of note: *Rocky*, which, despite its progeny, is a pretty good film; Clint Eastwood's *The Outlaw Josey Wales*; Brian De Palma's *Carrie*, with a star-making turn from Sissy Spacek; David Carradine as folk singer/legend Woody Guthrie in *Bound for Glory*; Dustin Hoffman and Laurence Olivier in *Marathon Man*, the film that showed a dentist's drill for the

instrument of torture it is; director Alan Parker's first-rate oddity, *Bugsy Malone*; and the sci-fi thriller *Logan's Run*.

Reason it's overlooked: The '70s was a great decade for films, particularly since there were so many good young directors making the scene. But since they all turned out roughly one picture annually, it's hard to single out any particular year.

As strong a case, perhaps even stronger, could be made for 1973 (*American Graffiti*, *Badlands*, *The Exorcist*, *Mean Streets*, *Bang the Drum Slowly*, *The Last Detail*, *The Sting*, *Serpico*). (The Baltimore Sun)

## Home away from home

By TRACY FISKE

**I**n what is considered to be S.Y. Agnon's greatest novel, *Modern Hebrew literature's* favorite son talks about a club where the patrons are unable to abide by the rules of reading in the reading room, and eating and drinking in the dining room. "Some eat and read, others read and drink," writes Agnon in *Tmol Shilshom*. And herein lies the inspiration behind Jerusalem's only bookstore/restaurant/café, aptly named for this great literary work.

American consumers have been delighted over the past few years by the novelty of washing down a dose of Dos Equis or the *Daily News* with a double espresso and a chocolate-dipped biscotti in multi-storied book outlets. But Jerusalem's Tmol Shilshom is more eatery than book store, and clearly closer to an intimate European café, where questions of social and political import are pondered and debated, than a giant, impersonal mega store like Barnes and Nobel.

Situated on a second-floor balcony, Tmol Shilshom is perched like a treehouse in a courtyard behind Nahalat Shiva. The café's two rooms are lined with shelves and shelves of books — new and used, Israeli and foreign — which can be perused and purchased. Arched stone windows and tile floors create a Middle Eastern ambience. The furniture is of the mix-and-match variety: a few vintage arm chairs with decorative woodwork and plush upholstery mingle with more everyday wooden tables and chairs. In the evening the rooms, each equipped with a small, pretty espresso/wine bar, are softly illuminated by candelabras and table lamps.

Since its opening in 1994, when Yehuda Amichai read from his works, Tmol Shilshom has showcased the top names in local literature. In fact, owner David Ehrlich considers the poet — who in May read from his new book *Open Close Open*, and "loves to come in and just sit" — a mascot of sorts. Amos Oz and A.B. Yehoshua have also appeared at Tmol, and David Grossman read from his newest book just this past April.

Other interesting events featured on the Tmol Shilshom calendar — which can be accessed via the Internet site (<http://www.tmol-shilshom.co.il>) — over the past couple of months include a lecture by reiki masters on universal life energy, a discussion on the Middle East and Israeli TV, and an evening with the California editor of a new anthology on contemporary Jewish history. There are quite a few events for English speakers — check the calendar, which distinguishes between Hebrew- and English-speaking programs.

Tmol Shilshom offers on a bi-monthly basis tours, lectures and discussions in cooperation with the Jerusalem Field School. The event's fee includes coffee and cake at the café. Tmol Shilshom's menu is eclectic and a bit limited — it seems not as much enthusiasm has been put into the food as the impressive schedule of events. First courses, such as fried eggplant with feta cheese and yogurt sauce, and a variety of salads range from NIS 26 — NIS 35. Main courses such as salmon sandwiches, baked potatoes, and crepes are NIS 26 — NIS 36. The dessert menu is vast, listing such caloric goodies as hot fudge sundaes and triple-layer chocolate cakes as well as guilt-free treats like granola and fruit.

While Tmol Shilshom is kosher and closed on Shabbat (open other days from 8:00 a.m. — 2:00 a.m.), Ehrlich is proud that a wide spectrum of the population frequents his establishment. "We get everyone from the ultra-funky, secular Bezalet student to the most religious haredi family. Young and old, tourists and locals, they all come because we create for them a feeling of home. It's our home and it's important that the customers feel like it's their home as well."

Tmol Shilshom, 5 Yoel Solomon St., Jerusalem

## Writers on my mind

Pop singer Noam Rothem talks about his favorite authors

**N**oam Rothem, the super-slim, sulky-looking singer of the pop band Kerach Teshu, says his inspiration comes from London.

"I feel a connection to the music that the English create, especially David Bowie and Elvis Costello," he says. "To speak of more recently acclaimed artists, I like the band Pulp. They have something very provocative about their composing and presentation, almost like theater."

Rothem says that although he has been told his voice resembles that of the lead singer in the British band Suede, he "never really felt any sort of drive to sound like them, or even listen to them."

"Not that I don't respect them, I respect any band that has achieved what Suede has," he adds. "But to respect a band and to buy their album are two different things."

Despite an extremely busy schedule, Rothem seems to be taking success in stride.

"We are in the studio like 24 hours around the clock," Rothem explains. "We knew from the first rehearsal that we had to work and play gigs almost every day if we wanted to be anybody in this industry, so that's what we did."

He has little time for partying, but doesn't really mind.

"I'm not really the party type," he says. "It's not that I am depressed or anything it's just that I'm not the bouncy, happy type. I don't enjoy night clubs or pubs. I prefer to be at home playing guitar or reading."

When he does sit down to read, Rothem's favorite authors are:

**1. Raymond Chandler**  
"He wrote about the Thirties and most of his books became movies, generally in the era of Humphrey Bogart. I am just crazy about that type of thing, you know, detectives and such. Another thing that is exceptional about Chandler is that he wrote at a time when it was not taken for granted that every book of that sort would be made into a movie, so every detail was explained and you could really picture yourself there."

**2. Isaac Bashevis Singer**  
"He has a very respectable amount of books and he writes about the Jewish people in the Diaspora. I know that this doesn't sound like typical reading material



for a rocker, but he touches me. He was a very religious man, if I am not mistaken, and he dealt with the conflict of the "man and his beliefs." My favorite book of his is *The Slave*."

**3. Isaac Asimov**  
"I love science fiction. Asimov is basically the ultimate in science fiction and he wrote books in a series form. These series are just amazing. The way he wrote the history of the future is just phenomenal. It is like a project of twenty-odd years that is not boring for even a second."

**4. Oscar Wilde**  
"Oscar Wilde was really a character. He was an absolutely brilliant writer. He had opinions and beliefs about philosophy and beauty, aesthetics and ethics. He said some very interesting things about art. He believed that there was no way to define beauty or its opposite. [He believed] that beauty was a very personal thing and could not be challenged, that it was not something that could be defined. [He felt that] if beauty needed to be explained, then maybe it didn't even exist."

**5. Kurt Vonnegut Jr.**  
"I find a distinct connection between all of the authors that I have mentioned and Vonnegut. [They all have] a way of looking at the world sort of sideways or cynically, not always stuck in metaphors and sentimentality. Describing a situation in words that make you feel like you are there, without using much, is a talent that all of the above-mentioned authors, and especially Vonnegut, excel in."

— Sonie Lemor

## Hot tip

By DANIELA SCHEINDLIN

### Tel Aviv

Music in Tel Aviv goes global. Mizumana is an eclectic nine-member group that uses favorite household items — and the least expected ones — to create new tunes. This experience starts tonight at 9:30 p.m. at Tzavta Theater.

Alternately, Between Times is at the Inbal Ethnic Center tonight, one of the increasingly popular world music groups in Israel, this trio manages to span Middle

Eastern to Irish music, and even involves a harp. The music starts at 8:30 p.m., at the Suzanne Dellal Center.

As Friday night roles in, stick around Suzanne Dellal, for the second annual hot new modern dance festival. Meholobit is an freer-style version of the fall's Curtains Up international festival, but much longer (over a month), and all home-grown. It will include 40 performances by Israel's best names in modern dance.

The festival is jump started by the Batsheva Dance Company, which opens things on Friday night with a creation blending scenes from the group's most important works with a splash of humor. On Saturday night there will be music and outdoor events and a repeat performance. At this point the festival heats up, with the Inbal Dance Company giving a premiere on Sunday night, and more. Call (03) 510-5656 for a program and details.

Throw some flamenco into the Neveh Tzedek brew for a perfect dance evening all around. Neta

Shizel and her company perform flamenco dancing with the soloist Erez Afign at the Inbal theater at Suzanne Dellal, also on Saturday night, starting at 8:30 p.m.

S. Anski's *The Dybbuk* was first produced by Habimah Theater in 1922, in Russia, after which it was performed 1300 times over 43 years! See the latest version (it premiered last week) at Habimah, tonight at 8:30 p.m.

The most mellow activity of all is reserved for Tel Aviv's English speakers: YES (Young English Speakers) meets tonight at 8 p.m., at the green spot on the beach near the Dan Panorama (close to Neveh Tzedek). A picnic with guitar music promises tranquility for the weary. Call (03) 673-7392 for more information.

### Jerusalem

The Film Festival blocks out almost all other options, with its almost intimidating array of choices throughout the next 10 days. Starting tonight with the Coen Brothers' latest opus *The Big Lebowski*, the pickings of Israeli

and international films only increase. For tickets call (02) 671-0030.

Not tempted? Then hang out at the AACI Folk Music Evening instead. Dixieland and schmalz music (courtesy of Sheila Tannenbaum) blend this evening in a rather eclectic combination that includes, among others, The Dutch Damsel Duel and Heather Gelb on five-string banjo. The performance takes place at the AACI, 6 Mane/11 Pinsky, starting at 8:30 p.m. Call (02) 561-7151.

### And Points Beyond

Step up the weekend with the hip-hop leftovers from the festival earlier this month: Bushrock and the Eight are found at Kibbutz Ramat David's Vertigo on Friday night; moving on to Chevrolet, in Holon on Saturday, and later on in the week to the Orion (Jerusalem) and Octopus in Tel Aviv.

Tonight is also the tail-end of the week's festivals: See the final dance bash at the Karmiel Folk Dance festival, which begins at 9:30 p.m., and hang out for the

11:55 fiesta of Yemenite singers and dancers. Don't even consider sleeping, as the night moves into its traditional all-night dancing party.

Intellectuals can hold a pre-Karmiel thinking bash at the last day of the Festival of Jewish Learning, at nearby Kfar Blum. This is a special event in honor of the jubilee, sponsored by the same committee that brought us *Jubilee Bells*. Call (03) 527-9449 for more information.

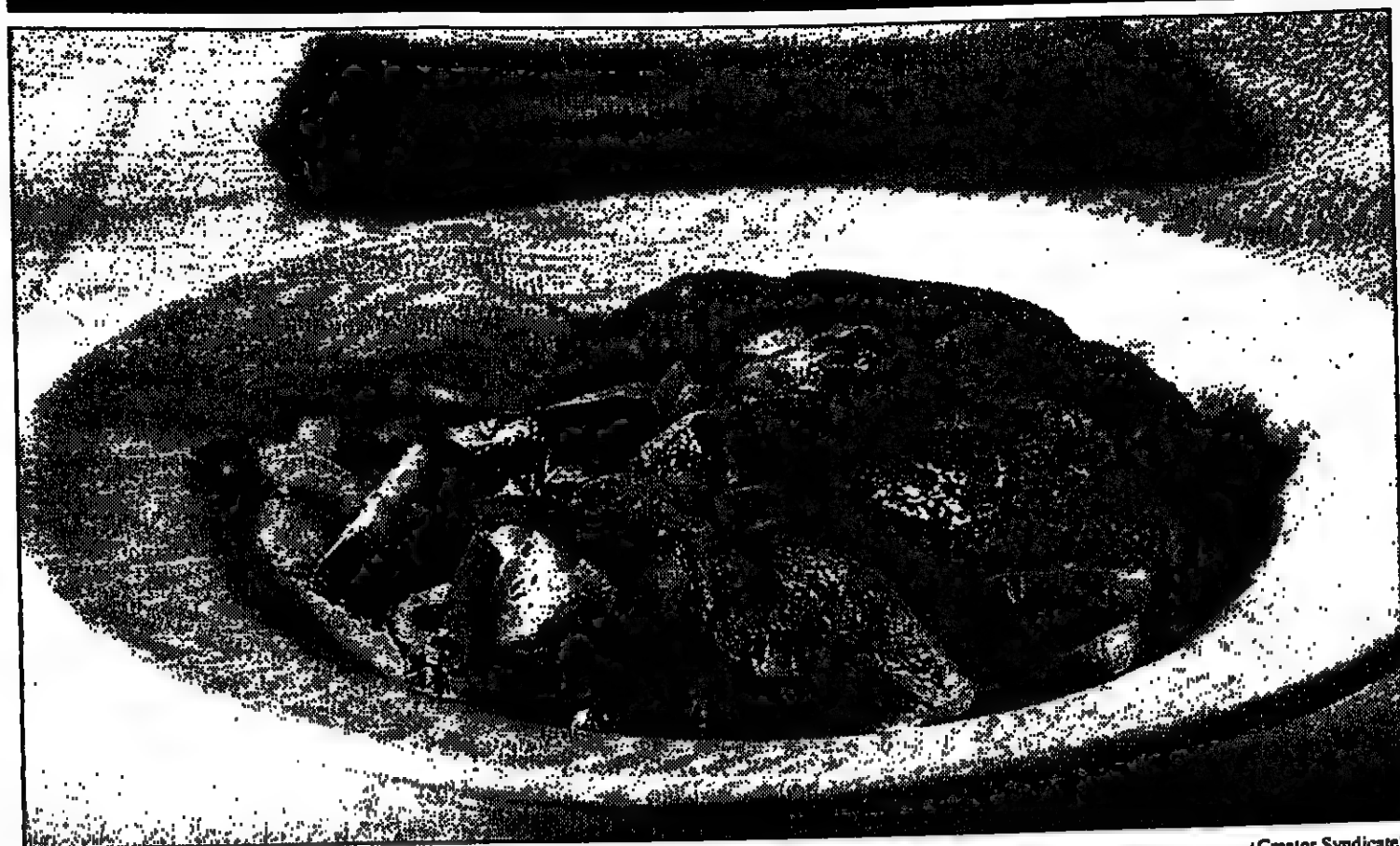
Around these northern festivals, the local band The Flies are still buzzing. Friday night finds them at the Haifa City Hall, starting at 10:00 p.m. (04) 838-1449.

Meanwhile, back in the central regions: Pablo Rosenberg plays at the Sixth Sense Club tonight in Ramat Hasharon, starting at 10 p.m. Tonight in Afula, *Ben Hur* and the Rabbi's Wife plays at Beit Eshkol.

The romantic and contemplative Shlomo Artzi is prime end-of-the-weekend relaxation, with a Saturday night concert in Caesarea, starting at 9:15 p.m. at the Amphitheater. Call (03) 524-7373



# Weekender Food & Drink



Classic sausage-and-pepper grill

(Creator Syndicate)

## The beauty of age

Green bell peppers turn to gold (and red and orange) when left to ripen on the vine. And summer is prime time for these sweeter, milder bells, Janet Fletcher writes

**W**hy should you choose red, yellow and orange bell peppers over the usual green ones?

First, there is the flavor difference. Green bell peppers, because they are picked before they're ripe, have a tangy, robust taste. But when left on the vine to ripen, their natural sugars develop as they change hue. That makes red, yellow, and orange bells' flavor sweeter, milder and more subtle. There's also a nutritional difference: As bells ripen, they become richer in vitamins A and C.

Growers decide what color to harvest based on market price and demand. In fact, it's not unusual for immature green peppers and mature red, yellow, or orange peppers to be harvested from the same field.

But what can you do with all that pepper bounty? We took the bell by the horns and created recipes that make the most of these colorful peppers.

Although you can substitute green bells, the flavors won't be as sweet and delicate.

### YELLOW-AND-ORANGE PEPPER SOUP WITH RED-CHILE PUREE

This soup is equally good with or without the red-chile puree.

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 cups diced orange bell pepper
- 2 cups diced yellow bell pepper
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 1/2 cup diced carrot
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 cups water, divided
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- 1 large ancho chile
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- chopped fresh cilantro (optional)

Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add bell peppers, onion, carrot, and garlic; saute 10 minutes or until lightly browned.

Add potato, 2 cups water, 1/2 tsp. salt, black pepper, and broth; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Place half of bell pepper mixture in a blender and process until smooth. Pour pureed bell pepper mixture into a large bowl. Repeat procedure with remaining bell pepper mixture; keep warm.

Remove stem and seeds from chile. Tear chile into large pieces; place in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook 3 minutes or until thoroughly heated, turning pieces occasionally (be careful not to burn chile). Add 1 cup water; bring to a simmer. Cover and simmer 5 minutes or until soft.

Remove chile from pan with a slotted spoon, reserving 2 Tbsp. cooking liquid. Discard remaining cooking liquid. Combine chile,

cooking liquid, and 1/8 tsp. salt in a blender; process until smooth. Ladle soup into each of 7 bowls; top with chile puree and garnish with cilantro, if desired. (Serves 7.)

### BAKED GROUPER WITH TWO-PEPPER RELISH

- 1/3 cup chopped pitted kalamata olives
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley
- 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 1/2 tsp. minced fresh or 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 yellow bell pepper, roasted, peeled and chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, roasted, peeled and chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 6 170 gr. grouper fillets
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- cooking spray
- 1/3 cup dry white wine
- thyme sprigs (optional)

Preheat oven to 190°.

Combine first 9 ingredients in a bowl.

Sprinkle fish with 1/4 tsp. salt and black pepper. Place fish in a 33cm. x 23cm. baking dish coated with cooking spray. Add wine to baking dish. Bake at 190° for 24 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

Serve fish with pepper relish. Garnish with thyme sprigs, if desired. (Serves 6.)

### ROASTED PEPPER AND CHICKPEA SALAD

- 1/2 cup vertically sliced red onion
- 1/3 cup minced fresh cilantro
- 2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. Hungarian sweet paprika
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 3 red bell peppers, roasted, peeled and cut into thin strips
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 450 gr. can chickpeas, drained

Combine all ingredients in a medium-sized bowl and toss salad well. (Serves 4.)

### MEDITERRANEAN PEPPERS AND POTATOES

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup minced seeded plum tomato
- 1 1/2 cups cubed peeled baking potato
- 1 cup 2.5cm. pieces red bell pepper
- 1 cup 2.5cm. pieces yellow bell pepper
- 1 cup 2.5cm. pieces orange bell pepper
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper

- 1 1/3 cups chicken broth
- 1/3 cup coarsely chopped fresh basil
- 1/4 cup sliced pimento-stuffed olives

Heat oil in a medium-sized saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion and saute 10 minutes. Add garlic and saute 1 minute. Add tomato and cook 5 minutes, stirring frequently.

Add potato, bell peppers, salt, black pepper and broth; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes or until potato is tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; stir in basil and olives. Let stand, covered, 20 minutes. (Serves 5.)

### GOLDEN-PEPPER RISOTTO

- 4 small yellow bell peppers, roasted
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 1 1/2 chicken or vegetable broth
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1/2 cup minced onion
- 1 1/2 cups uncooked short-grain rice
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 cup finely grated fresh Parmesan cheese
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley
- 2 tsp. margarine or butter
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper

Place 2 roasted peppers in a food processor or blender and process until smooth. Chop remaining roasted peppers.

Bring water and broth to a simmer in a medium-sized saucepan (do not boil). Keep warm over low heat.

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion; saute 3 minutes or until tender. Add rice; cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Stir in wine; cook 2 minutes or until the liquid is nearly absorbed, stirring constantly. Add broth mixture, about 1/2 cup at a time, stirring constantly until each portion of broth is absorbed before adding the next (about 20 minutes total).

Stir in pureed and chopped peppers and cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in Parmesan cheese and the remaining ingredients. (Serves 6.)

### CHICKEN-AND-SWEET PEPPER FAJITAS

- 2 tsp. vegetable oil, divided
- 2 cups vertically sliced onion
- 1 cup yellow bell pepper strips
- 1 cup green bell pepper strips
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced seeded jalapeno pepper (about 2 peppers)
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. black pepper
- 340 gr. skinned, boned chicken breast, cut into 5cm. x 1/2cm.

- strips
- 4 flour tortillas
- 2 Tbsp. mashed avocado

Heat 1 tsp. oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the onion, bell peppers and jalapeno; stir-fry 12 minutes or until crisp-tender. Remove mixture from skillet; stir in cilantro, salt, and black pepper.

Heat 1 tsp. oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add chicken; saute 3 minutes or until done. Return pepper mixture to skillet; cook 1 minute or until thoroughly heated.

Heat tortillas according to package directions. Spread 1 1/2 tsp. avocado over each tortilla, if desired. Divide chicken mixture evenly among tortillas; roll up. (Serves 4.)

### PIZZA WITH SWEET PEPPERS AND MOZZARELLA

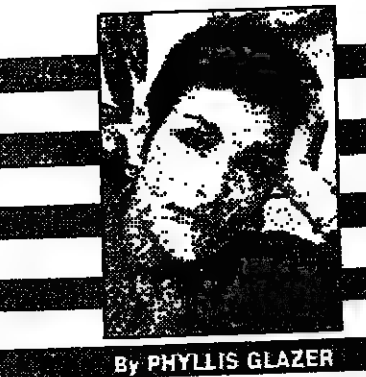
Although it's a little higher in fat and sodium, you can use a pre-made pizza crust in place of the homemade crust.

- 25 gr. of shirrit (cube or granulated yeast)
- 3/4 cup warm water (40°-46°)
- 1 3/4 cups flour, divided
- 2 Tbsp. cornmeal, divided
- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. salt
- cooking spray
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- 1/2 cup finely grated fresh Parmesan cheese, divided
- 2 red bell peppers, roasted, peeled and cut into strips
- 2 orange bell peppers, roasted, peeled and cut into strips
- 1 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley
- 2 tsp. minced fresh oregano
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper
- 4 garlic cloves, minced

Dissolve yeast in warm water in a large bowl; let stand 5 minutes. Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups; level with a knife. Add 1 1/2 cups flour, 1 Tbsp. cornmeal, oil, and salt to yeast mixture; stir well until smooth (dough will be sticky).

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth and elastic (about 10 minutes); add enough of remaining flour, 1 Tbsp. at a time, to prevent dough from sticking to hands.

Place dough in a large bowl coated with cooking spray, turning to coat top. Cover and let rise in a warm place (30°), free from drafts, 1 hour or until doubled in bulk. Punch dough down; cover and let rest for 5 minutes. Roll dough into a 25cm. x 20cm. rectangle on a lightly floured surface. Place dough on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray and sprinkled with 1 Tbsp. cornmeal. Cover and let rise 20 minutes or until puffy.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

**Politically correct ice cream** (very good)  
President's Choice just delivered two new ice cream flavors to our door, and my parents were delighted.

The two new flavors marketed by Greenberg supermarkets, importers of the Canadian President's Choice label, are Tiramisu and Yogurt Ice Cream with Orange Sorbet. They went over big in our house. The tiramisu flavor had small pieces of cake in a delicious ice cream. The yogurt ice cream, swirled with orange sorbet, reminded me of something the Good Humor ice cream man used to sell during summers in Belle Harbor. Other frozen yogurt/sorbet combinations are raspberry, mango, and blueberry. Each 1.9 liter carton costs NIS 25.95.

**Kit Kat (good)**  
If you like Kit Kat candy bars,

you'll also like the new Nestle Motta Kit Kat Ice Cream Bar imported from England. Each one weighs 50 grams and has the same shape as the classic Kit Kat bar. It's one of the few Nestle Motta products without Technicolor food colorings, and it tastes good, too. NIS 4.

**Cajun barbecue**  
Food Line, importers of the legendary Heinz ketchup and other Heinz food products to Israel, is now importing three barbecue sauces as well: Traditional, Smoked and Cajun flavors. I'd suggest avoiding the smoked flavor since "smoke flavored" products often contain substances which are questionable health-wise. The Cajun flavor, however, was spicy and delicious. It can be used to season fish, beef and chicken and is concentrated so a little lasts a long time. The 510ml. bottle is reasonably priced at NIS 11.

**Microwave tips**  
Though I'm not much of a fan of the microwave except for defrosting, reheating and popcorn-making, there are a few handy things that readers have suggested we do with it. Among the suggestions I've received lately are:

- Refresh potato chips or pretzels. Put 2-3 cups on an unbleached paper towel placed on a plate or basket without food staples. Heat on high for 15-20 seconds until warm to the touch. Let stand for 5 minutes to cool and crisp. This is especially good when you have leftovers and they've gone stale.

- Plump raisins or dried fruits. Combine 1 cup dried fruit with 1 Tbsp. water. Cover tightly and heat on high for 45 seconds or until softened. Let stand, covered for 1 minute.

- Shell nuts fast. Place 2 cups nuts and 1/4 cup water in a glass casserole. Cover tightly. Cook on high for 1-2 minutes. Drain, dry before shelling.

- Peel a tomato. Put a large tomato in the microwave and heat on high for a minute to loosen the peel.

- Get a juicier orange or lemon by warming it for 30 seconds in the microwave on high before squeezing.

- Finger towels. If you're serving a sticky dinner, and want to end with a nice touch, wet washcloths with water scented with lemon juice or rose water. Wring out, fold or roll place in a wicker basket with metal staples and heat on high for 2-3 minutes.

## FEED

By PHYLLIS GLAZER

You suggest using organic vegetables which are not sprayed. How does one eliminate the bugs on the leafy vegetables as soaking destroys the vitamins?

-L. Lufi, Jerusalem

Soaking does not destroy the vitamins, it provides a wonderful way for the vitamins to escape. I would suggest washing the leaves individually under running water and using a soft brush to help remove the dirt.

Can you advise me how I can flavor olive oil with herbs? I tried putting mint leaves in a bottle of oil, but it appeared to go moldy.

Also can you advise me what normal precautions should be taken to avoid exposure to microwave oven waves, or advise where to get this information?

-Trevor Gurewitz, Jerusalem

As you have discovered, flavored oils tend to become rancid easily. Make them in small quantities and make sure that all the ingredients are completely covered with oil or mold will develop, as it did in your case with the mint. I also suggest straining the herbs out after about two weeks (when the flavor has had time to develop) to avoid problems. Also, it would help to store the flavored oil in the refrigerator.

With regard to your microwave, I'd call the manufacturer and ask if it has a testing service or can recommend someone who will come and test your microwave for leakage.

In a previous column (Feedback, April 24), Lynette

Levin asked about using cooking spray. Because my family and I are asthmatic, I was wary of spraying. From your stick cooking spray, hair spray or any other spray inside the house. May I suggest that if Levin has no porch or backyard to spray in, she hold the spray and the pan out the window, spray quickly, bring them inside, and shut the window.

-Traci Spinner, Ra'anana

Since there isn't that much difference between oil spray and greasing the pan, why not make your life easier and just grease the pan?

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted at The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by e-mail: phyllisglazer@post.co.il. Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.



Yellow-and-orange pepper soup with red-chile puree

(Creator Syndicate)

Preheat oven to 245°.

Sprinkle dough with 3/4 cup mozzarella and 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, leaving a 2cm. margin around the edges. Combine bell peppers and remaining ingredients; spoon evenly over cheese. Sprinkle remaining cheese over the bell pepper mixture. Bake at 245° for 18 minutes or until cheese melts. (Serves 6.)

### CLASSIC SAUSAGE-AND-PEPPER GRILL

- cooking spray
- 450 gr. red potatoes, quartered
- 5 garlic cloves
- 1/4 tsp. salt, divided
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper, divided
- 1 red onion, peeled and cut in

- half crosswise
- 4 red bell peppers, quartered
- 2 yellow bell peppers, quartered
- 5 100 gr. turkey Italian sausage links
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 1 Tbsp. minced fresh oregano

Prepare grill. Coat the grill rack with cooking spray.

Cut a 45cm. x 30cm. sheet of heavy-duty foil. Place potatoes and garlic in center of foil; sprinkle with 1/8 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. black pepper. Fold foil over vegetables, tightly sealing edges.

Add foil pouch to grill rack. Grill 30 minutes, turning foil pouch occasionally.

Lightly coat onion and bell peppers with cooking spray; sprinkle

with 1/8 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. black pepper. Place onion on grill rack; grill 15 minutes. Turn onion over; add bell peppers and sausage.

Grill an additional 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender and sausage is done; turn occasionally. Remove from grill.

Slice bell peppers into strips; coarsely chop onion. Combine bell peppers, onion and potatoes in a large bowl. Squeeze garlic cloves into a small bowl to extract garlic pulp and discard skins. Add parsley and oregano, tossing well. Slice grilled sausage links into 1cm. thick slices. Serve with bell pepper mixture. (Serves 5.)

Creators Syndicate, Inc.



# Little House on the Golan Weekender Travel



Elisv Bar-Hai, who opened Ahuzat Habashan with his wife and children this year, handles the horses with quiet commands and just a hint of control on the reins.

## Day Tripper

By Ham Shapiro

Fancy making apple juice, spinning wool, riding in a 19th-century buggy or dressing up in turn-of-the-century costumes? The place to go is Ahuzat Habashan at Moshav Avnei Eitan in the lower Golan Heights.

Modeled after life in the 1800s, Ahuzat Habashan is not a reconstructed community. However, it is built to look as if it dates back to 1883, when a group of Safed residents founded the Bnei Yehuda association that set up an agricultural community on the Golan in 1885.

All that is left of the Bnei Yehuda community are a few foundations in an overgrown forest, but Ahuzat Habashan boasts two basalt stone buildings, a stable and a general store.

The tourist site was opened this year by Elisv Bar-Hai, his wife Jacki and their seven children, who, dressed in period costume and armed with considerable enthusiasm, make the Ahuzat Habashan project work.

Ahuzat Habashan's pride is its stable, home to two enormous horses: a Welsh Cob gelding called Oliver and Sheila, an Irish work horse. During my visit, Oliver and Sheila pulled a 19th-century English carriage around the moshav, to the utter delight of a group of nursery schoolchildren.

Sitting beside Bar-Hai in the coachman's seat, I admired his handling of the horses with quiet commands and just a hint of control on the reins and the whip. Only later did I learn that he had not been a coachman's son, but had taken a course on handling horses in England.

The country store is another Ahuzat Habashan attraction, its shelves stocked with handmade

candles, soap and even an authentic 19th-century nightgown. In one corner stands an old hand press, the kind used to print Israel's first Hebrew papers.

On an adjacent balcony, children watched Bar-Hai's daughters demonstrate how to card and spin wool, roll it into yarn and finally turn it into cloth on the loom.

The family next asked the children to help make apple juice, first grinding the apples, then pressing them and finally sharing the juice. The facility also has an antique butter churn which is no longer functioning.

An adjoining plot of land holds the sheep that apparently provide the wool, and a pair of deer, a tribute to the deer that ran wild in the Golan until the end of the 19th century. A small petting zoo is set up in another area.

Visitors can also borrow clothes from a 19th-century wardrobe and pose for portraits taken with an old-fashioned box camera.

Bar-Hai has ambitious plans for the site, including the installation of a narrow-gauge railway and the addition of craftsmen skilled in ceramics, glass-blowing and leather-working.

Ahuzat Habashan is suitable for school groups from the lower grades and families with small children. Visits should be coordinated in advance by calling (06) 676-3863. Admission is NIS 20 for children and adults.

To reach Moshav Avnei Eitan from the center of the country, take the eastern road along Lake Kinneret and turn east at the Kursi Junction. Inside the moshav there are signs to Ahuzat Habashan.



This 19th-century hand press is the kind that was used to print Israel's first Hebrew papers.



Jacki Bar-Hai demonstrates how to card and spin wool from sheep raised nearby.



Members of the Bar-Hai family, dressed in period costume, draw water from a well.



An antique butter churn, no longer functioning, is on display at Ahuzat Habashan.



The country store has shelves stocked with handmade candles and an authentic 19th-century nightgown.

JERUSALEM POST

Photos: Israel Sun

ENTERTAINMENT  
Buy 2 for \$10.00  
Buy 3 for \$15.00  
Buy 4 for \$20.00  
Buy 5 for \$25.00  
Buy 6 for \$30.00  
Buy 7 for \$35.00  
Buy 8 for \$40.00  
Buy 9 for \$45.00  
Buy 10 for \$50.00

Living Room

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## Weekender Leisure



Flair

By Greer Fay Cashman



Photos: Moshe Ben-Chen

## Hooked on classics

**T**he Aviv-based fashion designer Shoshana Ben-Zur includes Reuma Weizman and Nagwa Bassiouny among her regular clients – indicative of the type of customers she generally caters to.

Ben-Zur might best be described as an "easy" classicist. Her designs are not so severe as to be characterized as super classic, though they are not the sort of thing you would wear to the supermarket.

They're exactly right for semi-formal luncheons and cocktail receptions – sufficiently unrestricted to allow for comfortable sitting, yet sufficiently graceful to make a positive impression at stand-up affairs.

Ben-Zur often has showings at the homes of diplomats or in hotel banquet halls, to which the wives of diplomats and other socialites are invited. Women who want to

be well dressed but not overdressed and women looking for mix-and-match outfits that will give them maximum mileage are Ben-Zur's typical target market.

Her suits offer choices of tailored skirts or pants. Her dress-and-coat ensembles marry monochrome dresses to printed flyaway coats with slit seams. The same dress can then adopt a suit-like image when worn with a matching straight-cut tailored jacket.

Her three-piece suits, in which one of the items may be a print, enable even wider coordination possibilities.



(Left to right) High-powered women: Michal Moda'i, president of World WIZO; Shoshana Ben-Zur, fashion designer; Reuma Weizman, wife of Israel's president; Bracha Rachmilovich, head of fund-raising, WIZO Jerusalem

abilities. A client who purchases one skirt suit, one pants suit and one dress and coat ensemble in which the prints and colors all harmonize is completely set for the season.

While most of the pants in Ben-Zur's current collection are of the tailored or semi-tailored variety, there is also a good choice of palazzo pants, which are particularly favored by women with heavy thighs who are looking for suitable camouflage.

Her propensity for understatement notwithstanding, Ben-Zur is aware that women with good

bodies love to show them off in sexy clothes, and she has catered to this end of the market with a series of fashion teasers that expose plenty of bare flesh in just the right places; garments that are provocative without being cheap.

Though black and white predominate, different shades of brown and pastel pinks and yellows show up frequently in the collection. Ben-Zur really goes overboard with blue – from the most delicate powder shades to a strong bolt of cobalt.

Her skirt lengths tend to hover just above the knee, but some move down below.

A designer who wants all her clients to look good in what she produces, Ben-Zur will frequently insist on supplying a made-to-measure garment for a customer whose proportions do not fit what's available on the rack.



(Clockwise from top left) From the racks of Shoshana Ben-Zur: A powder-blue safari suit; for women who want to look sexy, without looking cheap, a semi-tailored denim suit and a 'belly-dancer' dress; a cobalt blue suit with coordinating print blouse; a batique pants suit perfect for partying



## Bridge

### Frozen suits in the summertime

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

West dealer  
North-South vulnerable

North  
♠ J 10 2  
♥ K Q 4  
♦ Q 10 6 5  
♣ A K Q

West East  
♠ 7 4 3 ♠ K Q 9 8 6  
♥ 8 7 5 2 ♥ A 6  
♦ 7 4 3 ♦ K 9 8  
♣ 8 5 3 ♣ J 9 2

South (Shahaf)  
♠ A 5  
♥ J 10 9 3  
♦ A J 2  
♣ 10 7 6 4

West North East South  
pass 1 NT 2 ♠ 3 ♠  
double pass pass redouble  
(all pass)

Opening lead: ♠ 3

**A**s editor of a bridge magazine, I receive lots of mail from around the world. When there's a new bridge idea, people enjoy discussing it.

Sometimes the same deal will be analyzed in one part of the globe and then analyzed again on the other side. This is the case with today's deal, which was sent to me first by Aviv Shahaf of New York City.

The main subject of the deal was "frozen suits," a hot item among bridge aficionados. This idea refers to a suit that the defenders cannot attack without helping declarer. It's always a suit that declarer would prefer not to attack himself.

It could be, for example, A-J-x opposite K-10-x. This suit is "frozen" for the defenders because if they attack it they give declarer three tricks in the suit, whereas if they leave it alone declarer must guess where the queen is.

Another example is Q-10 opposite A-x, with the jack in front of the Q-10 and the king over it. In this case, declarer can never score two tricks, unless one of the defenders leads the suit.

Shahaf was very enthusiastic in his letter and reported that he had discovered a new type of frozen suit: A-x opposite J-10-x, the spade holding in the South and North hands.

If you examine the spade layout around the table, you'll see that if declarer attacks the suit (by laying down the ace or by leading the jack or 10 from dummy), he cannot score more than one trick.

If West attacks the suit, again

only one trick is available to declarer. But if East attacks the suit, declarer must get two tricks. So this became declarer's goal: to force East to attack the spade suit.

The bidding and final contract was esoteric, to put it mildly. North began with a one-no-trump opening and East overcalled two spades. South cuebid three spades, asking North if he held a four-card heart suit.

West doubled three spades, for no apparent reason, and when this came back to South, he redoubled to force his partner to bid. North, however, misunderstood, and passed the redouble, so the final contract was absurd: three spades redoubled by South.

"You can imagine how I felt when dummy came down," wrote Shahaf.

The opening lead was a small club. Declarer cashed three club tricks and led the queen of diamonds for a finesse. When East covered, declarer scored three diamond tricks and led a heart.

East won the ace and returned a heart to dummy. That was declarer's seventh trick, and he needed two trump tricks.

Shahaf led a third round of hearts and East ruffed. Now East had nothing to play but spades and when he led the king, declarer could win the ace and lead a spade toward the J-10 for his ninth trick.

A few weeks after this deal was published, I received a letter from Tatsuya and Mariko Ueda, of Nara, Japan. They suggested that the frozen suit be "unfrozen."

After three clubs and three diamonds were cashed, and after East won the heart ace and returned one to dummy, declarer could have played the thirteenth diamond from dummy. If he ruffed this card with the ace of spades, he would effectively "unfreeze" the frozen suit.

"After that," wrote the Uedas, "you can lead the five of trumps to dummy's J-10-2 to force a ninth trick, or you can lead the club 10 and ruff it with the trump jack or 10." They went on to say that this line of play would also make the contract when the trump king and queen were split (in separate defenders' hands).

Indeed, if West held one of the spade honors, East could lead a low spade and declarer would not be able to score two tricks in the suit. Only by unfreezing the suit (ruffing a diamond with the ace of trumps) can declarer be certain of fulfilling his "cold" contract.

Readers may contact Matthew Granovetter by e-mail at [gran@netvision.net.il](mailto:gran@netvision.net.il)

## Chess

### Flash in the pan

By MICHAEL SHORT

**O**nce in a while somebody comes along who really distinguishes himself from the rest of the crowd. Take Paul Morphy, who burst onto the chess scene during the 1850s. After winning the First American Chess Congress in 1857, he whopped the finest European masters in match play before returning home a hero to his native New Orleans in 1858.

He promptly retired from the game at the age of 21 to practice law. Sadly, this devastating blow for chess was by no means compensated for by an equivalent gain for the legal profession.

Somewhat, Garry Kasparov has a fairly low opinion of Morphy. I can't think why: a spot of envy, I guess. In years to come they will probably argue that Kasparov's opponents were incredibly weak too, which, even if it is the case, hardly detracts from his achievements.

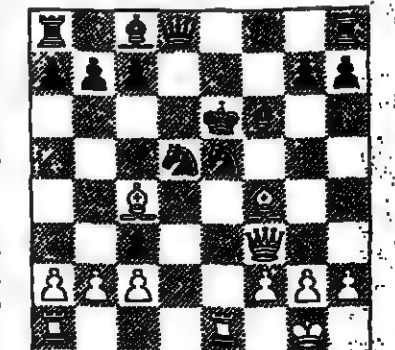
The following is one of my favorite blindfold games. It illustrates Morphy's great fluency of attack. Unfortunately, the name of his hapless victim has not been preserved.

White: Morphy  
Black: Amateur  
New Orleans, 1858

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. Ng5? This move is premature but very tricky to meet. Doubtless Morphy wished to embroil Black in early complications. ...d5 6. exd5 Nxd5? (6 ...Qe7+ throws a small Spaniard in the works. The text move exposes Black to great danger.) 7. 0-0 Be7? (...Be6! would have mitigated the worst effects of the previous move.) 8. Nx7! Kx7 9. Qf3+ Ke6. The king is lured forward into peril. 10. Ne3!! All right, all right. I will admit it is a gratuitous sacrifice and that 10. Qe4+ was very

strong as well. But look how the d-line is prized open and the al rook brought into play with tempo! ...dxc3 11. Re1+ Ne5 12. Bf4 Bf6.

Black: (Amateur)



White: (Morphy) to play

13. Bxe5 Bxe5 14. Rxe5+! Wasting no time in drawing the king to its death. ...Kxe5 15. Re4+ Kd4 16. Bxd5 Rf8. Not the best try but other continuations would only postpone the denouement, eg (16 ...cxb2 17. Re4+ Kc5 18. Qc3+ Kd6 19. Qe5+ Kc5 20. Bxb7+ Kb6 21. Rb4# or 16. ...Qf6 17. Rd1+ Kc5 18. Qe3+ Kb4 19. Rd4+ etc.) 17. Qd3+ Failing to observe 17. Qxc3+ Kxd5 18. Re5+ Kd6 19. Qe5+ Kd7 20. Qd5# 18. ...Kc5 18. b4+ Kxb4 19. Qd4+ and Black resigns as mate follows after 19. ...Kc5 20. Qxc3+ Ka6 21. Qa3+ Kb5 22. Rb1# If perchance you imagine that blindfold chess is easy, bear in mind that not all champions are equally adept at it.

White: Karpov  
Black: Sadler  
Monaco, 1998  
1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 Nc6 3. d4 Bf5 4. Nb4 Be4 5. f3 Bg6 6. Ng5 h6 7. Bg2 Qd6 8. f4 0-0-0 9. c3 g5 10. Qd3 Kb8 11. fxe5 e5 12.0-0 e4 13. Rxf7??  
Forgetting that his queen is no longer on d1 13. ...exd3 Wins.

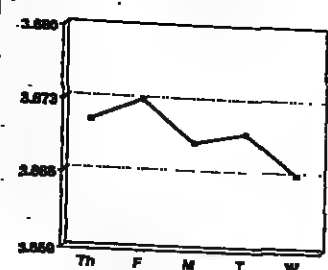
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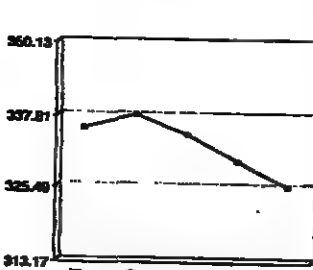
## MARKETS

in brief

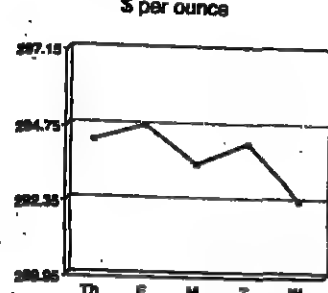
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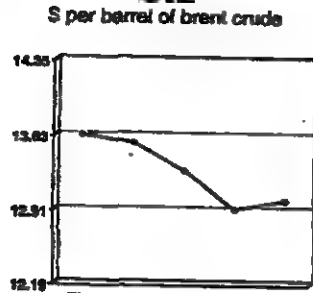
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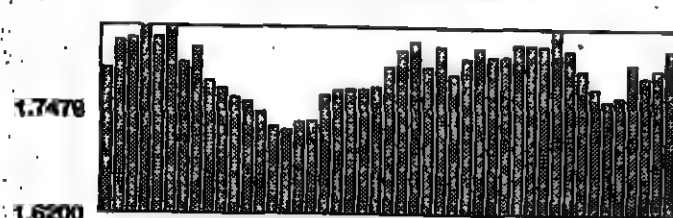
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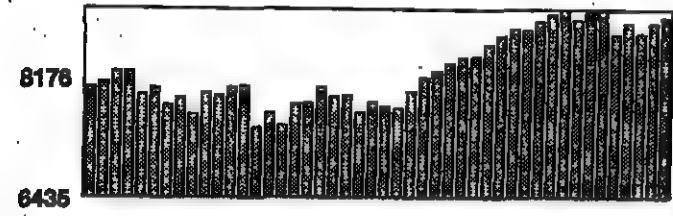
### OIL



### DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



### DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



#### SAP to invest \$200m. in Israel

SAP, the world's largest maker of business management software, intends to invest some \$200 million over the next few years in Israel, Dr. Peter Zencke, a member of SAP's management board, told President Ezer Weizman during a visit here. According to Zencke, SAP will conduct its investments through its local subsidiary, Ofek-Tech Software Industries, in which the German company acquired control last month. He added that SAP intends to focus on research and development in Israel. Tel Aviv-based Ofek Tech specializes in warehouse and distribution center logistics software. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

#### Alpha Card starts recruiting businesses

Alpha Card, the new Visa credit card provider, announced yesterday that it has started recruiting businesses. The move is the first step as Alpha Card gets ready to start operating after it settled the dispute with I.C.C. Visa, the first supplier of Visa credit cards in Israel. Meanwhile, the war of words between I.C.C. and Alpha has intensified, with both companies spreading mutual accusations. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

#### Discount Bank to open private banking center

Israel Discount Bank said yesterday that in August it will open a center for private banking in Tel Aviv aimed at clients with deposits of more than \$1 million. Clients will meet bank officials in special meeting rooms. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

#### Export Institute establishes Web site

The Israel Export Institute has established a Web site featuring business opportunities for Israeli exporters. The site gives subscribers direct access to a data base of foreign companies seeking Israeli representatives, cooperative ventures or Israeli technology and tenders for international projects. Subscribers can build a business profile and receive via e-mail information on suitable business opportunities. The site, at [www2.export.gov.il](http://www2.export.gov.il), also allows local companies to advertise business offers via an electronic commerce system. *Nina Gilbert*

#### American Israeli Paper Mills signs deal

American Israeli Paper Mills signed an agreement yesterday with French group Compagnie Generale D'entreprises Automobiles to sell 51% of its subsidiary, Amnir, to the French company, a subsidiary of Vivendi, for \$7.8m. Amnir is the Hadera-based company's recycling firm. The deal will not include the sale of Amnir's paper and plastic collection and recycling business and will be limited to the company's solid waste disposal operations. AIPM is the country's leading manufacturer and distributor of paper products. *Nina Gilbert*

#### Vita wins IDF pasta supply tender

Vita Quality Food has won a Defense Ministry tender to provide 50 percent of the pasta consumed by the IDF, after 50 years in which Osem was the only provider. Vita said yesterday. The Petah Tikva-based company said it would supply some 1,100 tons of pasta annually to the IDF for an estimated NIS 4 million. A year ago, Vita started producing pasta after buying 51% of a Kiryat Shmona company. As a result of the contract that factory is to double its capacity. *Nina Gilbert*

#### Kibbutz Beit Hashita enters venture with Osem

Kibbutz Beit Hashita's olive production business has merged with Assis, owned by Osem, in a joint venture. The new company, Beit Hashita-Assis Food Industries, owned 49 percent by the kibbutz and 51% by Osem, will invest NIS 11 million in new production facilities. Assis's jam and sauces will be produced at the kibbutz within a few months, with the full move to take place next year, when Assis is to close down its production facility in Netanya. Osem CEO Dan Propper said the venture is part of the company's aim to expand its range and market share in food products. Beit Hashita Olives CEO Nitzan Sela said the merger will enable the company to become separate from the kibbutz and link up with a significant strategic partner in the local and world market. *Nina Gilbert*

## Ericsson wins \$40m. PA cellphone deal

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Swedish telecommunications company Ericsson yesterday announced that it has won a \$40 million contract from the Palestinian Authority's phone company Paltel to establish a cellular phone network. In the past it has been reported that Motorola and Koor Industries, together with Canada's Northern Telecom (Nortel) were bidding for the tender. According to the contract,

Ericsson will supply a GSM network for the West Bank and Gaza. The GSM 900 network will include radio base stations, microwave solutions and civil engineering work. The Swedish telecom giant will also provide Paltel with operational support during the first phase of the contract. In a statement, the company said that the network will provide GSM capacity to more than 100,000 mobile users in the Palestinian Authority.

The move of Paltel to set up an independent cellular network might hurt the profits of Israeli cellular providers. The backwardness of regular telecommunication infrastructure in the PA led many Palestinians to use the services of Pelephone and Cellcom, which has put up 50 cell sites (transmission stations) in Judea and Samaria alone. Bo Andersson, president of L.M. Ericsson Israel, said that the contract strengthens the company's position in the region. In March,

Ericsson won the tender to become the supplier of the Partner Group, which has guaranteed the company a contract to supply network equipment for \$140m. The GSM network used by Paltel is similar to that which will be provided by the Partner Group, which in February won the tender to become Israel's third supplier of cellular phone services. The GSM digital technology is used mainly in Western Europe. This technology allows consumers to use their mobile phones

abroad. Paltel is the sole provider for all telecommunications services in the PA-controlled areas. The privately-owned company, which is the largest company listed on the Palestinian Stock Exchange, was established in 1995. Stockholm-based Ericsson is one of the world's top telecommunications equipment makers. The company has about 40 percent of the world's mobile phone subscribers connected to its systems.



Employees of Silver Shadow stage a demonstration of counterterrorism techniques yesterday at the Middle East Security and Defense Exposition in Tel Aviv. (Han Oseendyver/Israel Sun)

## Silver Shadow unveils VIP security screen

By STEVE RODAN

An Israeli company has unveiled an electronic security screen meant to protect government leaders or top executives from an assassin's bullet. Manufactured by Silver Shadow, the screen is portable, clear and bulletproof. It is for deployment in vulnerable areas — such as the walk between the presidential car and the hotel which he will enter. In 1981, former US president Ronald Reagan, was shot several times as he was leaving a Washington hotel for his bullet-proof car. Amos Golan, co-owner of Silver Shadow, said when the first bullet strikes the screen, an electronic unit emits a siren and flashing lights. At the same time, a curtain falls over the screen to prevent the assassin from seeing his target. A remote control unit allows the bodyguards to set off smoke bombs to deflect the attention of the assassin and conceal his target. "We are selling this system in several places around the world, including the Far East and South America," Golan said. Golan estimated the cost of the system at several thousand dollars. Silver Shadow is one of more than 100 companies displaying

their wares at the current Security Israel 98, the 12th Middle East Security & Defense Exhibition, which is being held at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds and closes today.

## One year after onset of competition Israelis dialing abroad twice as much

By JUDY SEGEL

A year after competition was brought to the overseas dialing market, Israelis are calling abroad nearly twice as much as before, Bezeq International managing director Ori Yosev said yesterday. Bezeq, which previously had a monopoly of nearly 100 percent of all outgoing overseas calls, he said, a figure which has remained stable for most of the year and is similar to the share the company predicted. Yosev said that total outgoing dialing traffic for Bezeq International, Golden Lines and Barak has increased from 28 million minutes per month a year ago to 50 million today. At the same time, there has been a drop of 13% in incoming calls, from 38 million to 33 million minutes.

Rates are about 60% lower than last year — the cheapest in the world, according to Bezeq International. Over a year ago, 45% of overseas calls were made by businesses, but today 65% are placed by private individuals. About 30% of the calls are to the US (compared to 24% before competition), 8% to England, 6% to France and 5% each to Russia

and Germany. During the first six months of an open market, the three companies spent all their energies on a price war, while during the second half year they invested their efforts in improving services, Yosev said. Looking toward the year 2000, he said he expected another, but small, reduction in overseas dialing rates and an increase in incoming calls because of reduced rates abroad. The company expects an increase of 50%-100% in outgoing calls during the next two or three years.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

## Granit's sale to Borowitz-Glencore finalized

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The sale of 56 percent of Granit Hacarmel to the Borowitz-Glencore group was finalized yesterday after the group paid Mashav Initiating and Development \$197.2 million two days ahead of schedule.

Following the completion of the deal, the block of shares was divided equally between a company controlled by Tami Mozes and her husband Dedi Borowitz, and Rusevco, a Dutch subsidiary of Swiss commodity trader Glencore International.

Glencore — which trades in petroleum products, metals, minerals and agricultural products — is one of the world's biggest metals traders. The involvement of Glencore in the deal marks the first time a large international player enters the Israeli petroleum market.

The Borowitz-Glencore group has also agreed to pay an additional NIS 45m. for a 3.5% stake in Granit. This block of shares

was acquired last month by Mashav in an attempt to prevent a battle for control. Mashav announced last week that businessman Moshe Shenef and Eli Aran, which won the initial tender for the purchase of Granit, failed to meet the terms of the agreement.

Shenef and Aran, who agreed to buy the controlling interest in Granit for \$221.6m., failed to finance the deal and were forced to abandon plans to control the parent company of Sonol Israel, the country's third largest petroleum company.

Granit buys and imports raw petroleum and markets petroleum goods through Sonol.

The company also owns Vulcan Batteries and sells other gases and oils through Granit Hacarmel Holding and Granite Hacarmel Properties.

The company reported net sales of NIS 1.839 billion last year, with net income at NIS 51m., which was NIS 1.1m. down on the 1996 figure.

## Israeli-Jordanian company plans sales to Iraq, Iran

By NINA GILBERT

An Israeli-Jordanian company dealing with Dead Sea minerals plans to supply its products to Iraq, Iran and other Arab countries without ties with Israel by next year, according to the company's director.

"Iraqi and Iranian businessmen have made contact with the company in Jordan and are interested in acting as exclusive suppliers of the products in their countries," company director Uri Ben-Hur said yesterday. "I expect deals to be reached with them next year."

He said businessmen from Saudi Arabia and Syria are also interested in the products. "I tell the Arab businessmen in my meetings in Amman — let's take a new weapon, peace, and do something with it."

Jordael, a company established two years ago, began producing

Dead Sea products a year ago under the Sea of Life label. Annual sales have grown to a few million dollars a year, Ben-Hur said.

The company has a joint management based in Ared and Amman and draws its raw materials from the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea. The mud is transported and then processed and packaged at the company factory in Ared. The salts are processed in the Amman facility.

The products, including mud for health spas and salts, are being supplied to health centers in Europe and North America. Sales were also recently launched to China and Taiwan. Small quantities are also being sold to Qatar, Oman, and Dubai.

The packages say the products are co-produced in Jordan and Israel "to help develop the peace of tomorrow between the people of the Middle East."

## ISRAEL ELECTRIC TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services by tender:

### Tender 665787

#### Agreement for the supply of METERING CABINETS

Stage One - Request for technical/commercial proposal without prices  
Cost of tender documents, including VAT: NIS2188  
Quantities:  
Item 1: 4000 - Metering Cabinets for 6 meters, without equipment  
Item 2: 2000 - Metering Cabinets for 12 meters, without equipment  
Minimum Conditions:  
1. Samples of each item should be submitted, for checking by IEC.  
2. Manufacturer's inspection certificates, issued by a recognized, approved testing institute, should be submitted for all items.  
3. A certificate attesting compliance with the appropriate standard, for the items in which this is indicated in the tender specification.  
4. A manufacturer who does not have such a standards institute certificate or test certificates for the equipment concerned should provide a copy of a know-how agreement, with a manufacturer who produces the equipment, in accordance with the above requirements.  
Duration of agreement: Two years, with an option to extend for one additional year.  
Last date for submitting bids: August 2, 1998 (11 a.m.)

### Tender 663841

#### Agreement for the supply of SF6 Insulated Switchgear for 36 kV system voltage

Stage One - Request for technical/commercial proposal without prices  
Cost of tender documents, including VAT: NIS2188  
Quantities:  
P/N QTY Description  
(i) 249193 64 units SF6 switchgear, 3C + 2T, 36 kV, 400 A, with provision for control  
(ii) 249235 78 units SF6 switchgear, 2C + 2T, 36 kV, 400 A, with provision for control  
(iii) 2182004 10 units SF6 switchgear, 3C + 1T, 36 kV, 400 A, with provision for control  
(iv) 218020 12 units SF6 switchgear, 5C, 36 kV, 400 A, with provision for control  
The above quantities are estimated, and the IEC retains the right to change these quantities by +/- 40%.  
Minimum conditions:  
The bidder will be able to submit a price bid at the commercial stage of the tender, only if he meets the minimum conditions, as detailed in the tender documents.  
Duration of agreement: Two years, with the option to extend for one additional year.  
Last date for submitting bids: August 16, 1998 (11 a.m.)

Additional participation pre-conditions:  
A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993.  
Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies).  
B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required relevant documents, the tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) for the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address by calling 04-868 7456/4.  
Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused, Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at the above offices or at the Sales Department, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, entrance C, 1st floor, Tel. 03-565-4879, 03-565-4641.  
Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and placed in Tenders Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.  
No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.  
NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).  
The Electric Corporation reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

The text of the tenders is displayed on the IEC's Internet site:  
[WWW.ISRAEL-ELECTRIC.CO.IL](http://WWW.ISRAEL-ELECTRIC.CO.IL)

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## Inside

Brazil still under-whelming  
Page 18Sports Editors  
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

## Nicklaus streak ends

LONDON (AP) — Jack Nicklaus has pulled out of next week's British Open, ending his streak of consecutive majors at 154. He also said he will not play the PGA Championship next month.

Nicklaus, winner of 18 majors and two US Amateur titles, has played in every major for which he has been eligible since the 1957 US Open, when he missed the cut as a 17-year-old amateur. Even at age 58, he tied for sixth in this year's Masters and tied for 43rd in the US Open.

## Talasnikov to Betar

By ORI LEWIS

Israel international midfielder Jan Talasnikov was yesterday transferred from Ironi Ashdod to Betar Jerusalem for \$500,000, making him one of the most expensive players in the local game.

Talasnikov, who has been loaned to the league champions by Ashdod for the past two seasons, will now be a permanent part of Betar.

Whether Talasnikov actually plays for Betar is still not certain, as the player is looking for a club in Europe for next season. Tottenham Hotspur have been touted as a possibility for the dynamic midfielder.

Another player who will probably play abroad next season is Israeli striker Ronen Harazi, who has impressed the heads of Bursaspor of Turkey during a five-day tryout.



**YESTERDAY'S RESULT**  
France 2, Croatia 1

**THIRD-PLACE PLAYOFF**  
Saturday  
Netherlands-Croatia 1-0  
22:00 (Channel One)

**FINAL**  
Sunday  
Brazil-France 22:00  
(Channel One)

PARIS (Reuters) — Defender Lilian Thuram scored two second half goals yesterday as hosts France, reduced to 10 men, beat Croatia 2-1 and reached their first World Cup final.

They play Brazil on July 12 at the Stade de France in what will be the first final between the hosts and reigning champions.

Suffering a goal drought in their last two matches, all France had wondered who was going to make the country's dreams come true by hitting the back of the net at the Stade de France.

Parma defender Thuram was the unexpected answer. His strikes in the 47th minute, to equalize a goal seconds earlier by Davor Suker, and in the 70th were the first international goals of his career.

Defender Laurent Blanc, scorer of France's second round golden goal, was sent off in the 74th minute for pushing Slaven Bilic in the face, in what looked a harsh decision.

While the first half was lacking a real spark, the match exploded almost as soon as Spanish referee Jose Maria Garcia-Aranda blew the whistle after the break.

Suker took 28 seconds to blast the ball home and join Italian Christian Vieri and Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta as the tournament's top scorers with five goals.

Aljosa Assanovic laid on the long, defense-splitting pass for Suker to control and settle in left-footed.



KICK START — France's Zinedine Zidane (l) challenges Croatia's Zvonimir Soldo in first-half action.

(Reuters)

Thuram had played him aside but was soon to make amends.

Suker's was the first goal France had conceded in open play in the tournament, and only their second overall after a first round penalty converted by Denmark's Michael Laudrup.

The Croat supporters in the

Stade de France were still celebrating when, one minute and four seconds after Suker had scored, Thuram grabbed his first.

Youri Djorkaeff, much criticized for failing to turn on the style in France's World Cup matches, laid on the through ball that Thuram

turned home without hesitation. That was France's first goal in regular time since the first round — they won the second round clash with Paraguay on a golden goal and the quarter-final with Italy on penalties.

The match came alive and Thuram made it 2-1 by blasting home left-footed past the diving

Ladic after Thierry Henry sent him through.

At halftime it had probably been the Croats who could feel happier after weathering early France pressure and coming back into the game near the break.

Zinedine Zidane had several chances, his most spectacular

coming four minutes before half-time when he volleyed a curling shot that forced Ladic to make an acrobatic diving save.

France had replaced injured midfielder Christian Karembeu, who had looked lively for the first 20 minutes, with young striker Henry in the 31st minute.

## AIR CANADA

Neon lunch at Fisherman's Wharf?  
AIR CANADA will get you there in time  
Lv-TLV 1:30 a.m. Arr-SF 11:30 a.m. same day

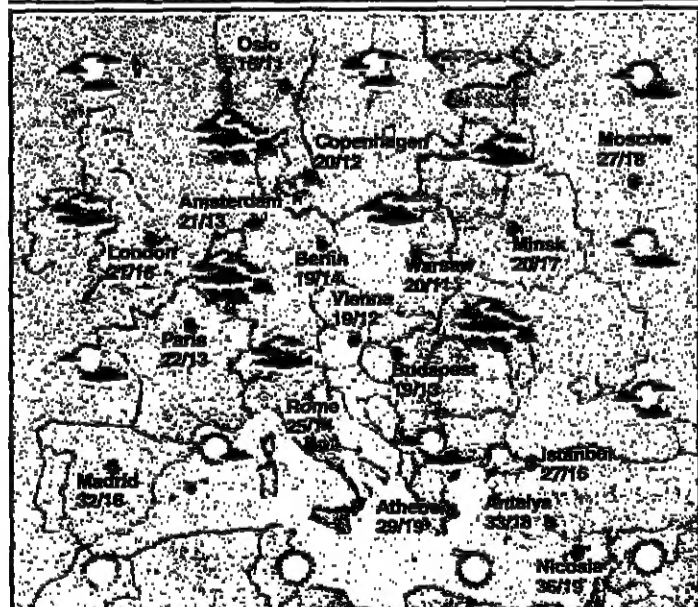
## THE WEATHER

## ISRAEL

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## EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Ashdod	31/10	23/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10
Bat Yam	31/10	23/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10
Be'er Sheva	31/10	23/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10
Beit Shean	31/10	23/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10
Beit Shimon	31/10	23/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10
Beit Shimon	31/10	23/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10
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Beit Shimon	31/10	23/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10
Beit Shimon	31/10	23/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10	30/10	22/10

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, drizzle, fog, snow, sleet, hail, etc.

## NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



NAILED — AL catcher Sandy Alomar, Jr., of the Cleveland Indians, tags out Brewers Fernando Vina in eighth-inning action. Vina attempted to score from second on a hit by Devon White but was thrown out by Yankees' Paul O'Neill.

(Reuters)

## Something in the air

American League outslugs NL, 13-8, in high-altitude Denver

DENVER (AP) — There was never another All-Star game like this.

Then again, there had never been one at Coors Field.

Fly balls became home runs. Bouncers took off like rockets.

Greg Maddux, Roger Clemens, Tom Glavine — they were mere mortals in the Rocky Mountains' home run heaven.

"This was a different type of All-Star game," Roberto Alomar said Tuesday night after the American League's record-setting 13-8 victory over the National. "When you watch the scoring in Denver, you're always seeing big numbers, 13 to whatever."

Alomar, matching the feat of his older brother last year, homered and won an All-Star MVP award. Alex Rodriguez also homered as the AL tied the record for runs and hits (19). The two teams set an All-Star record for combined runs and tied the record for hits with 31.

"No lead is ever good in this place," Mark McGwire said. "You have to play it to the last out."

The AL had at least one hit in every inning and overcame deficits of 2-0 in the fourth and 6-5 in the sixth.

The NL trailed 5-3 before Barry Bonds' 451-

foot, three-run homer off Bartolo Colon in the fifth, a drive that hit a San Francisco banner hanging off the upper deck in right. The ball

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record, got to see the type of game the stadium is known for.

Maddux, the four-time Cy Young Award winner who leads the majors with a 1.54 ERA, was hit hard at the start, giving up singles to Kenny Lofton and Alomar.

Maddux managed to escape with two shutout innings, but six of the next seven NL pitchers gave up runs.

Want to know why pitchers hate it here? Clemens pointed skyward in the third inning, thinking Bonds popped up. Lofton caught the ball on the warning track.

Alomar and Ivan Rodriguez each went 3-for-4, and 10 players drove in runs for the AL, which cut the NL's All-Star lead to 40-28-1. Rafael Palmeiro's RBI single in the ninth accounted for the 21st run, breaking the record set in the AL's 11-9 win in 1954.

The game nearly turned around in the eighth, when Greg Vaughn's two-run single off Tom Gordon pulled the NL to 10-8. Devon White, who also had three hits — followed with another single, but left fielder Paul O'Neill threw out Fernando Vina at the plate, and shortstop Omar Vizquel followed by turning a nifty double play on Andres Galarraga.

See All-Star, Page 18

הכרזה מן האולם